

NEWSLETTER 2016

From the Chief Training Instructor . . .



On January 10th we started back with our training at the club after the Christmas break and luckily the weather wasn't too bad, in the past we have had to close due to snow and ice. Our first social event of the year was the AGM in March when, after the important formal matters and the presentation of trophies, we had a 'Cheese and Wine' social. This went down very well (literally)!

the transport of equipment. The first such event was the 12th 'Dogs' Day Out' at Denzell Gardens in May followed in June by the 'Dogs' Delight' at John Leigh Park. We also organised a similar fun day, a 'Dog Extravaganza', with dog shows and agility at Lavender Barn in Dunham Massey, in September.

In addition to those fun days, the club's display team was at the Timperley Country Fair in September, demonstrating how well trained dogs like to work together. The team members train very hard throughout the year and have great fun. Why not give it a try with your dog? You would both be very welcome. Also, this autumn we were invited to take part in the 'Paws Spooktakular' fund raising event in Wythenshawe Park organised by St. Ann's Hospice. We set up an agility course for dogs and owners to try and it proved extremely popular. It was fun to see so many people and their dogs turning up in Halloween costumes.

In April, club members were filmed by a team from the BBC for an episode of 'Rip off Britain'. When the programme was screened later in the year we looked really good! Also in April, members had the opportunity to participate in, or watch, a 'Heelwork to Music' taster evening, which proved a great success. November is the month for the 'Children in Need' appeal and we are supporting the charity for the second year with an afternoon of fun activities. Hopefully we will collect a good sum for a worthy cause.

The Wednesday evening agility sessions this summer have been very successful and as soon as the weather is suitable they will start again. I must say a great 'Thank you' to all the members who made it so worthwhile, coming every week and helping with the equipment. Agility isn't just for club members, so if you have friends who would like to try it, do invite them along, just let one of the instructors, or me, know. We are also hoping to purchase new pieces of equipment for next year.

I hope you are enjoying training your dogs with us. We are always looking for new ways to encourage you to have a well socialised and happy companion dog and will help you persevere with even the most challenging of dogs.

In the photograph overleaf, I have my dogs with me. For many years I have had dogs who trained at the club and progressed through the classes.

Most of the instructors started this way, so if you fancy joining us, please let us know.

We have an enthusiastic team comprising the Committee, the instructors and many helpers who work alongside us. We meet regularly to plan the classes and discuss club and outside events. I wish to thank them all for supporting my deputy, Vivienne, and me.

Don't forget that we are here to help you and support you and your dog's progress, so if you have any queries, problems or suggestions please talk to me, or any members of the training team. Do have fun with your pets.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Keep up with the training!

Sylvia Davenport

UNDER SURVEILLANCE

*YOU ARE BEING WATCHED your every movement CLOSELY OBSERVED
daily hourly minute by minute IN YOUR OWN HOME!*

*Do not be alarmed though just cast a glance over your shoulder.
Is your gaze, by any chance, returned by a pair of friendly brown eyes?
But do not be fooled! Behind those eyes lies a formidable evaluation system.*

Your observer will KNOW that you are thinking of taking a walk the instant the idea comes into your head. And if you remember it is time to feed the dog you will find yourself tripping over him as you walk towards his bowl!

*Have you had a bad day? Or some unhappy news? Are you unusually tired or just feeling down?
The next thing you will find is a wet tongue licking your hand or a paw on your arm
and soft fur pressed into your side.*

*Frequently dog owners declare, 'He understands every word I say.'
He might, but he also understands everything you DON'T say!*

And our lives are much the richer for that.

Darcy's Tale (Tail!)



Way back in July my training began.
Donna, my owner, became such a fan.
Arriving each Sunday – (I'm never late),
I walk in the circle and SIT, DOWN and WAIT.

Vivienne, my trainer, had just the touch,
Setting me tasks but never too much.
Then I met Claire, we worked hard together.
I wanted to please, pass Pups' Class, whatever!

I'm still only young but do feel quite clever
I hear people say, 'Darcy you're a smart fella!'
Yet when I speak to the big dogs I know,
They say with conviction I've a long way to go.

Off to the market each weekend I go,
I SIT and I WAIT whilst folk say 'Hello'
So to all the good trainers who teach me their 'stuff',
A very BIG 'Thank You' and a loud 'WOOF!'

*To the whole team of dedicated instructors at Altrincham and District Dog Training Society -
thank you for always being so welcoming and understanding.*

Donna and Steve Kettle & Darcy

ADDTS Display Team 2016

The display team enjoyed another successful year. During the winter, twice monthly rehearsals were held at the Community Centre in Broomwood and then in the summer we practised in Denzell Gardens. They were sociable occasions both for the dogs and their owners. 2016 saw the arrival of several new members and we look forward to welcoming new participants for the coming season.



Three extremely successful public performances were held in local parks. First at the Denzell Gardens in Bowdon, then John Leigh Park in June and followed in September by a display at Timperley Country Fair. *(The picture left showing the team waiting for the signal to begin the display.)* All were fun, and very relaxed events, where there was a genuine sense of community. Before the shows the handlers' trepidation and concern about 'not getting it wrong' obviously communicated itself to our four legged pals who did their very best not to let the ADDTS down. With perhaps a couple of notable exceptions the result was an impressive performance. Although, the incredible 'singing dog' (mine!) unfortunately didn't quite match his introduction.....

People came together in a traditional way to create something memorable for themselves: a change from the soul-less and glossy commercialism of much of life today!

And to repeat, please do not hold back if you fancy having a go. Just get in touch with any member of the core ADDTS team.

Dorothy Bennett

Beginners' Class

The Club holds a Beginners' Class alongside the puppy classes (2.00 pm on Sunday afternoons) for dogs 6 months of age and over. They are registered on the first Sunday of the month (not weekly like puppies) and it is in the best interests of handlers and dogs to spend at least four consecutive weeks training before progressing to Class 1.

Older dogs are taught the same basic commands as puppies. As owners may not know much of the background of say, a dog adopted from a rescue centre, it is advisable that a few weeks are spent 'bonding' with their dog prior to training at the club. Forget the saying - 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks,' - Oh yes you can! It might take longer, that's all. With patience, short sessions at home, rewarding with a tasty treat and verbal praise you will make progress. What can be more satisfying than a well-mannered dog completely focused on its owner, an alert dog happily walking by its owner's side and a dog eagerly returning to the handler on recall? It is a two-way relationship and all about learning from each other. Training should be fun for both of you - you are your own best critic on whether you have shown your dog what you would like him/her to do and given praise instantly your dog has got it right.

Beginners don't join in the warm up before class - they may be nervous and overwhelmed by the number of people and puppies milling around, so an important part of training is to introduce dogs gradually to different situations. Walking along a main road, through a bus station, past a school at playtime and other situations that fit in with their family life will play an important part in building up a dog's confidence. In class, socialisation with other dogs will be practised. Play with toys at home is encouraged but not included in the Beginners' Class as the dogs have enough to cope without becoming over-excited about another dog's toy. You can bet this will happen - someone else's toy becomes more appealing than their own! However in Class 1 dogs will have the opportunity to expand their skills through play.

The Club would like you and your dog to benefit from the Beginners' Class but please try not to compare your progress with others - just concentrate on your own dog as you have a unique partnership. There will be good days and not such good days! Our canine companions have their off days just like us. If you have more than one dog, try to give each some individual attention. Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you have any concerns about your dog - we will help you all we can.

Have a great Christmas!

Carys Camm

Agility

In May this year ADDTS Agility started up again for the first time at Manor Academy. We were absolutely delighted to have a core of about 20 members who regularly came on a Wednesday evening to participate in this fun activity. It has been great exercise for both dogs and handlers and although it will be a while until we qualify for Crufts, all participants learned a huge amount.



We had a mini competition at our Summer Fun Day won by Gill Newman, which gave us an idea of our progress. Then at the end of August there was the final 'Run Off' of the season. The winners of that were:

- 1st place - Maria Voronkov with Coffee
- 2nd - Julia Wills with Suzi Q
- 3rd - Isabella Shores with Hannah

Also on our calendar was our participation at the Timperley Country Fair and the Lavender Barn Dog Extravaganza, where we demonstrated basic agility skills, which was much appreciated by the spectators.

Next year, we hope to hold the agility sessions again and will warmly welcome any new members.

Sylvia Davenport & Fiona Clucas

Kennel Club Good Citizens Award

* Bronze *

Bill Robinson *with* Barney
Diane Rae *with* Billy
David Stubbs *with* Buster
Jane Whittaker *with* Daisy
Maureen Morris *with* Flossie
Debbie Walton *with* Isla
Beth Roberts *with* Jasper
Sandra Morrison *with* Tess
David Blakey *with* Shadow

** Silver **

Martha Roberts *with* Cashew
Robin Muirhead *with* Darcy
Isabella Shores *with* Hannah
Tara Stubbs *with* Rosie
Kimberley Fowler *with* Scrabble
Sheila Wills *with* Suzi Q

*** Gold ***

Eugenia Christian *with* Maggie
Gill Newman *with* Tess

ADDTS Club Awards 2016

Plumley Trophy

Winner - Gill Newman w Tess
Runner up - Jacquie Wilson w Snowy

Junior Plumley Trophy

Winner - Sandra Morrison w Tess
R/up - Robin Muirhead w Hannah
Commended - David Stubbs w Buster

Dunham Trophy

Winner - James Smyth w Buddy
R/up - Maria Voronkov w Coffee
Commended - Diane Rae w Billy

Stanier Shield

Robin Muirhead w Hannah & Isabella Shores w Darcy

Dringhoe Trophy

Diane Rae w Billy

CTI Special Award

Bill Robinson w Barney

Club Miscellany

Volunteers ~ We need you!

There are lots of jobs to be done:

- registering new members -
- helping with refreshments -
- moving equipment -

If you'd like to help we'd love to hear from you!



Do let us have your ideas for
dog related activities
social events
charitable causes
etc. etc.



Dates

Christmas Holidays:

There will be no training after the Christmas Fun Day on 11th December

The first training day of the New Year will be:

8th January 2017

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**AGM:** Thursday 16th March 2017

### Thank You

To everyone who has contributed to this year's newsletter. What would I do without you?

The photo above is of Benson and the one below, Waldo,  
both newly promoted from Puppies to the dizzy heights of Class 1.

Watch this space, next year they might be sporting Bronze or Silver rosettes!

### CHRISTMAS FUN DAY

11th December 2016

2pm

... Games ... Competitions ...

... Seasonal Refreshments ...

... and much more ...

