

NEWSLETTER 2017

From the Chief Training Instructor . . .



It has been a busy year for us all. The first event was our AGM in March when, after the official business, we welcomed a speaker from 'Dogs for Good' (formerly 'Dogs for the Disabled')

and met an assistance dog in training, a lovely black Labrador puppy.

On the day of the Manchester Marathon in April when the roads around the school were closed, Vivienne organised a Club Walk along part of the Trans Pennine Trail. Also in April we had an evening 'Dog Drive', which was a new venture enjoyed by all who attended.

Our next outing was the 'Dogs' Day Out' fun day, now in its 13th year, at Denzell Gardens in May, followed in July by the 'Dogs' Delight' at John Leigh Park. Both these events were very well attended. Through them we hope to demonstrate to the local community how much fun owners can have with their dogs. New this year was a similar event in Didsbury Park in September. This was such a success that the organisers would like us to hold another in 2018. Also, recently Fiona and I were involved in 'Canine Capers' at Withington Girls' School, where the children and their dogs did a charity walk, which raised a good amount for The Christie Hospital.

Apart from planning and helping to organise these events, we have our regular classes on

Sundays, the class assessments and training for the Kennel Club Good Citizen Awards, in which we had a high success rate this year.

In addition, during the summer months, we hold our mid-week fun agility. For those who would like to try agility, do watch out for the posters advertising the dates, starting on Wednesday evenings in May next year.

Also, of course, there is the very active display team which takes part in all the outside events. We have a regular team but are always looking for new people to join. We will be practising in an indoor arena during the winter months, if you are interested please speak to your instructor or me.

On a training note, please make sure you teach your dog an instant recall. It is one of the most important exercises. You can teach this by using your voice or a whistle. Ask your instructor for help if you are having any problems.

Please note the date of our Christmas Fun Day is Sunday December 10th. All the details will be on our website and Facebook and a poster at the club nearer the time.

I'd like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas you, your families and, of course, your dogs. Have a great time and come back refreshed and ready for more fun and learning in January.

My thanks to all the instructors, committee members and helpers who have supported me during the year.

Best wishes to everyone -

Sylvia

ADDTS Club Awards

Senior Plumley Trophy

Winner - Robin Muirhead w Hannah

Runner up - Bill Robinson w Barney

Junior Plumley Trophy

Winner - June Kelly w Asa

Runner up - Debbie Walton w Isla

Commended -

Dorothy Bennett w Archie

Dunham Trophy

Winner - Jacquie Wilson w Iris

Runner up - Julie Davies w Yaeger

Commended -

Trevor Davies & Maria Cordero
w Tiggy

Stanier Shield

Beth Roberts w Jasper

Dringhoe Trophy

Oliver Martin w Marley

CTI's Special Award

Martha Roberts w Cashew

News of Members



This September we said goodbye to Eugenia and Jonathon with their lovely little dog called Maggie,

who were moving out of the area. They have been members for four or five years, moving up through the classes to Class 5. Both Eugenia and Jonathon have been very active at our agility evenings and good members of our display team. We wish them good luck in their new home and hope they will enjoy belonging to a new club with Maggie.

We wish good luck in his future career to Daniel, who initially came to do part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award with us but stayed on long after that. He recently began at University. We are very grateful for all his help.

We have also said goodbye to Dominique and her dog Byron, who sadly has passed away. They were members with us for 5 years and worked up to Class 6.

Reflections on a Life with Dogs

Our first dog was called Maxwell. He very soon became Mad Max as he quickly gained a criminal record. We had him for seven years and his misdemeanours were too many to mention here. One of his last bids to be chief of the criminal dog fraternity and which included clearing Dunham Park of its deer population, resulted in a final ultimatum from me: 'Either he goes or I do.' Our children barely hesitated before they decided they would keep the dog ... but eventually we gave him back to the breeder we had bought him from.

Katy was our next and she arrived straight from heaven with wings still attached, an angel disguised as a corgi who we loved dearly for nearly 14 years.

For the next 18 or more years we didn't have a dog. Why did we wait so long? I've no idea, but clearly I had forgotten that taking a puppy for a walk turns everyone you pass into a smiling beacon of happiness. Why didn't I remember that walking a puppy is the easiest way to spread joy in the world? Why didn't I also remember that a puppy's mission is to destroy your home, and sanity?

Rosali came to us this year when she was eight weeks old and was going to be the best behaved dog ever. After I'd read every dog training book on the library shelf, how could she be anything else? Very quickly it became apparent that Rosali had not read the same books, or how was it possible for us to have such different ideas? That is not to say that she is an un-educated dog. She has digested a large chunk of the 'Oxford Book of Quotations', devoured 'Museums of Israel', and sampled Jamie Oliver's, '30 Minute Meals', so her reading tastes are quite eclectic.



Then there is gardening. Rosali is keen on gardening but rarely agrees with my planting schemes. She likes plants to be widely spread with their roots on top and no space in a flower bed is to be tolerated without the addition of a hole. We also disagree on interior design. Our clean and tidy home is a thing of the past but two amazing things have happened - one is that we love her and the other, she loves us.

Another thing that we are nearly in agreement about is attending Sunday dog training. Rosali loves it. But, and this is a big but, whereas I was thinking that maybe we could pass the Class One Assessment in 2018, Rosali's plan is more flexible and she thinks perhaps in 2020 ... although there again ... perhaps not.

Ann Gorodkin

ADDTS DISPLAY TEAM 2017



In the dark of the winter months of 2017 I received an email asking if I would be interested in joining the display team. I thought it would be a great experience, but wasn't sure if the team would want Isla with all her 'little issues'. Vivienne was more than encouraging and was happy to take us on. So one dark evening we ventured out to a school hall, which was to be our practising arena until the advent of lighter evenings and met the other members of the team. We were an eclectic bunch, with dogs of all shapes and sizes and at various levels of training, but we all had lots of enthusiasm to start the long journey towards being at a standard suitable to show to the public. At first the moves we were doing made little if any sense to me but we were assured by those more experienced that it would all 'fall into place' eventually.

Isla was finding the experience a little overwhelming to begin with and her barking meant us having to exit the hall until it had stopped, before re-entering to try and catch up with the others and work out what they had been doing. However, after a few sessions, she began to bark less and less as she became accustomed to the other dogs, the situation and the fact that there was always a lot to do. After about four or five practices, my husband, Chris, asked if he could come along with his dog Jessica. (Jessica is 11 years old and hasn't had any formal training since graduating from class 6 about 8 years ago). Vivienne was happy to have them and said that if we were short of a body for a display they could join in. It wasn't long before they were no longer the substitute pairing, but an integral part of the team.

The lighter evenings of the spring and early summer meant we were able to begin training outside. I had mixed feelings about this as Isla often has a fit of 'the zoomies' racing round and round, oblivious of the fact that I'm calling her. When we were indoors I knew she was contained but outdoors in an unenclosed area was a different matter. Never mind. I was part of this team and Isla knew all the other dogs so I just hoped she would stay with them. By this point all of her barking had stopped and Jessica was acting like a puppy again, racing around and loving the training.

The core bunch of 13 of us worked hard over the next few weeks to become public ready for the Dogs' Day Out in Denzell. Our waits and stays improved and the dogs' 'going to bed' became more going to bed themselves rather than being shepherded to bed. The one thing we just couldn't seem to perfect was walking in straight lines! Vivienne was for ever shouting, 'LINES' to us as we all walked at different speeds, only remembering to look where our neighbours were when this order was barked at us. The Denzell display was a nerve racking experience for me, but Isla behaved herself, having had a zoomie moment in a run-through beforehand. Our next outing was in John Leigh Park and by this time we were a little more confident, but a full contingent of the team wasn't available, which meant adjustments

to our places within the line up. This actually went much better than we had thought. The final display of the season, in front of our most discerning audience, was to be at the club's Fun Day in July. What we didn't know was that at that event was someone from the Friends of Didsbury Park who were hoping to put on a Dogs' Day and were interested in our display team. Following his afternoon at our fun day, the whole package: races, agility, dog shows and all were on the agenda. This meant us performing in an area which was unknown to most of us. There wasn't the opportunity for a run through pre-display, but all went really well, especially the LINES!! We actually managed to stay in line for our final outing of the year.

I am so grateful to the team members for making Chris and Jessica and myself with Isla so welcome, and putting up with Isla's little ways. Working in the team has been the making of her. She has become much more confident and secure when working with other dogs around, has stopped barking - most of the time - and best of all she has enjoyed herself and come home worn out. As for Jessica, it has given her a new lease of life. She always loved training and after a little bit of brushing up on her skills, has flourished. Now we're looking forward to next year.

Debbie Walton

Agility 2017

During the summer Sooty, a one year old Cockapoo, and I attended the agility sessions on Wednesday evenings. We both had a great time. There was lots of help and support from



the trainers and it is a great way to get to know other ADDTS attendees from other classes. Sooty and I have learnt so much from everyone. Sooty always slept like a log afterwards too, with me not far behind!

Going forward to when the sessions restart, I need to make sure Sooty is aware that the compost heap and running around like a delinquent is not part of the agility course!

I can definitely recommend these sessions to all owners and their furry friends. Do try them, they are fantastic.

Val Foster

Kennel Club Good Citizens Awards

BRONZE

19.2.2017

June Kelly *w* Asa
 Julia Wills *w* Bazil
 Maria Voronkov *w* Coffee
 Oliver Martin *w* Marley
 John Howarth *w* Stanley
 Myra O'Hara *w* Teddy
 Sue Jolley *w* Trixie
 Julie Davis *w* Yaeger

GOLD

30.7.2017

June Kelly *w* Asa
 Robin Muirhead *w* Hannah

SILVER

26.3.17

Dorothy Bennet *w* Archie
 June Kelly *w* Asa
 Bill Robinson *w* Barney
 Julia Wills *w* Bazil
 Maria Voronkov *w* Coffee
 Maureen Morris *w* Flossie
 Debbie Walton *w* Isla
 Oliver Martin *w* Marley

30.7.2017

Beth Roberts *w* Jasper

Congratulations to everyone!

Questions ... Questions

On a visit to one of my cousins some time ago, I became aware that she was really worried about the reaction, verging on aggression, of her young male Springer Spaniel towards her husband. We discussed her options for tackling this, one of which was to take him to dog training. She dismissed that on the basis that 'walking up and down' would not be of any help. That set me thinking and since then I have frequently questioned what we are teaching in our training classes and whether it is relevant to the needs of our members.

Subsequently I have discovered that I am not alone in this, several members of the training team are themselves evaluating our current syllabus. Indeed, recently it has been suggested that we form a subcommittee to look into the whole matter.

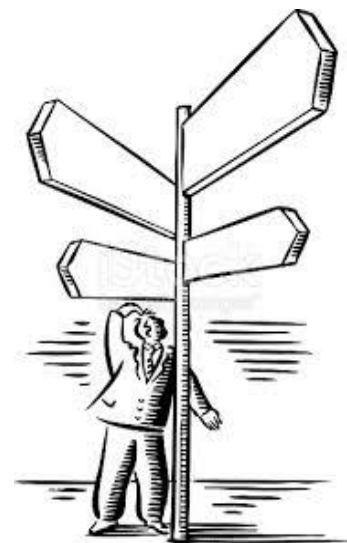
It is probably worth explaining how we have come to our current situation. Originally ADDTS was a training club for German Shepherds and many of them went on to Working Trials with their handlers. Over the years, other breeds were accepted but the emphasis remained on, if not Competitive Obedience, certainly formal obedience training that could become the basis for ongoing participation in Working Trials.

I would hazard a guess that a significant proportion of our present day members have never even heard of Working Trials, let alone be anxious to prepare their dogs for them. Hence the question – is the syllabus we now have, appropriate for today's dogs and their owners?

Of course the questions do not stop there. What about the structure of our classes? At present those who have done their Puppy Foundation sessions or time in the Beginners Class, move into Class 1, after which they have the opportunity to enter the assessment and move up into the next class, repeating the procedure until they reach the dizzy heights of Class 6. Could an alternative be for everyone to do a basic Pet Dog Obedience foundation course and then be able to choose other options: for example, the Kennel Club Good Citizens Scheme; more informal training or a slimmed down version of our present Obedience syllabus? Or a mixture of all three at different times?

The practical details of adopting such changes would, of course, need extremely careful consideration and planning, especially as we do not have a limitless supply of volunteer instructors but if it would help our members, should we not consider it?

Recently we received a very thoughtful e-mail from a club member detailing what she believes she and her dogs would benefit from in training. There may well be other members who would like to contribute to the discussion of how we could make what we teach more relevant to their needs. In March next year we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. Could this provide a forum for considering different ideas and points of view? It might be that we could also explore other related issues then. Neighbouring dog training clubs, for example, run stand alone puppy courses. Should we be doing the same? At present the club's funding is solely from the annual fee. Should that continue or should we move to a system of charging for individual courses, or a combination of each? It would be such a help if we knew what direction your thinking was taking. Do take the time to contact us and let us know.



Vivienne, on behalf of the training team

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FUN DAY

10th December 2017

2pm



... Games ... Competitions ...
... Seasonal Refreshments ...
... and much more ...

HOLIDAYS



There will be no training
after the Christmas Fun Day
on 10th December

The first training day of the
New Year will be:

7th January 2018

KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS



Alcohol
Chocolate
(especially dark chocolate)
Grapes/Raisins/Nuts
Onions/Garlic
Cooked Bones

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held
on

Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 7.30 pm

at

*The Parish Hall Holy Cross Church Park Road Timperley
WA15 6QG*