



# Seasons Greetings



Dog Assistance In Disability Charity Registration Number 1098619

## Winter Newsletter November 2011



*Marley*

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Special points of interest:

- Dog A.I.D. Office opening
- Strawberry Tea Events
- Assistance Agility



Accredited Member since 2009

**Minutes of AGM held Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**  
**At Yarnfield Coference Centre**

- 1.** Those Present Michelle Evans, Victoria Evans, Sandra Cooke, Mandy Ireland, Janice Arthur, Chantelle Rea-Bradley, Ros Fisher, Stuart Fisher, Stephen Jordan, Rosie Pocock, Alan Bennett, Thea Beckhelling, Louise Burrage, Caroline Lewis, Amy Warner, Angela Woodhouse, David Marter, Erica Bennett, Kirsten Dillon, Caroline Edwards,
- 2.** Apologies for Absence Anita Castellina, Sue Line, Chris Titley, Midge Walster, Amanda Coleman, Linda Bunting, Hazel Reynolds
- 3.** Minutes of Last AGM Accepted. Proposed by Michelle Evans, seconded by Caroline Lewis
- 4.** Matters Arising None
- 5.** Chairman's Report As printed copy
- 6.** Treasurer's Report As printed copy
- 7.** Fundraising Report As printed copy
- 8.** Election of Officers All current officers are prepared to be re-elected.  
Chairman – Sandra Fraser, elected unanimously. Treasurer – Paul Mallatratt, proposer Caroline Lewis, seconded by Thea Beckhelling. Secretary – Erica Bennett, proposer Janice Arthur, seconded by Margaret Hood
- 9.** Election of Committee The rest of the officers Dave Marter, Caroline Lewis, Angela Woodhouse, Amanda Coleman, proposed by Caroline Edwards, seconded by Stephen Jordan
- 10.** Amendments to the Constitution  
*1<sup>st</sup> Alteration* – Currently each item of the Constitution is identified by letters A-Z and each subsection by numbers  
This is to be altered to 'Each item be identified by Numbers and each subsection be identified by letters a-z Proposer – Kirsten Dillon, Seconded by Stuart Fisher, carried unanimously  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Alteration* - Constitution currently reads Q Annual General Meeting 1. There shall be an annual general meeting of the Charity which shall be held in the month of April in each year or as soon as is practical thereafter. This will be changed to 17. Annual General Meeting  
a. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Charity which shall be held in the month of July in each year or as soon as is practical thereafter. Proposed by Stephen Jordan, seconded by Rosie Pocock, carried unanimously  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Alteration* The following to be added to 17. Annual General Meeting f. Should no nominations be received and vacancies remain, nominations may be taken at the annual general meeting. If more than one nomination is made for a vacancy then election will be by ballot. Proposed by Alan Bennett seconded by Rosie Pocock, carried unanimously.
- 11.** Any Other Business Gift Aid needs further work.

**Summer Raffle Winners**

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize Dinner Set Anita Castellina from Fylde area
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Border Collie, Original Painting Daisy Larik from Holland
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Pet Photoshoot J Evans from Oswestry
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize Bungee Jump Diane Brassington from Newcastle
- 5<sup>th</sup> prize 2 tickets for Monkey Forest Janice Arthur from Barrow in Furness
- 6<sup>th</sup> prize 2 x tickets to Severn Valley Railway Daran Millward from Newcastle
- 7<sup>th</sup> prize Family ticket to Dudley Zoo Amy Wilson, West Midlands
- 8<sup>th</sup> prize Family ticket to Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, T Bailey, Cannock
- 9<sup>th</sup> prize 2 tickets to Showcase Cinema Cathy Wilson, West Midlands
- 10<sup>th</sup> prize 2 tickets to Showcase Cinema C Wilson, Birmingham

## Esther our Page 3 Girl.

Not many people can say they got a grandchild and a dog in 12 hours but 5 years ago this happened. This bundle of fun called Esther arrived in our home, she just loved to please. Indoor training was easy, but outdoors she followed her nose, recall has been our biggest challenge but we are slowly mastering it. Her tail never stops wagging, she loves kids especially Jack our grandson. She is a 'muck magnet', hates the sea but loves a bath. 10pm is cheese time, she has trained her Dad well!!!



'An Esthersetmissile' is her nickname when she runs through the woodlands. Esther you gave me my life back, thank you my best friend. *By Lynn Wood*

## Spring Workshop April 15th & 16th 2012 at

**Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre  
Yarnfield, Stone, Staffs. ST15 0NL**

[www.yarnfieldpark.com](http://www.yarnfieldpark.com)

## Back to Basics, ironing out the wrinkles! Saturday

Based on Levels 1 and 2

Do you have to repeat your commands for the basic behaviours?

How solid is your stay down?

Will your dog go down at a distance?

Can your dog walk past food?

Does your dog still jump up?

These and any other behaviours that need strengthening will be addressed.

## Sunday

Basic task work.

Using your dogs natural ability to your advantage.

*Due to the popularity of our workshops this Spring workshop is for 'clients in training' only. Please see below for details of our AGM workshop in September where all are welcome.*

Training for Dog A.I.D. clients and trainers is free. Non Dog A.I.D. Members are welcome at the cost of £30 per workshop day.

Contact Sandra Fraser on e-mail [clanfraser33@hotmail.com](mailto:clanfraser33@hotmail.com) phone 01743 891314.

## Date for your Diary

**Autumn Workshop including the AGM to be held on September 13th & 14th 2012 at a new venue in Poole, Dorset. There will be one training day for clients in training only followed by the AGM. The second day will be a social fun day with a possible guest speaker, all will be welcome.**

## Dog A.I.D's Chairperson's Report 2011.



It is always good to look back and see what we have achieved because things evolve and we do not appreciate the significance of the changes taking place at the time.

In a year of rapid growth our achievements have been many, an increase in funds, our Crufts debut and a new office being among the most important.

Our biggest achievement has to be the increase in funds, in the financial climate as it is, it is astounding how much our income has grown, of course there is an increase in expenditure as you will see from our new treasurers report. I think the increase reflects the growing awareness of Dog A.I.D.

The two major events have to be our first time at Crufts and the official opening of our new office. Crufts was without doubt a huge success; it incurred a lot of hard work but was worth it in the end. Raising our profile at Crufts I believe was a major achievement. We also sold enough of our goods to cover the cost of the stand.

After the AGM last year the committee began to look for suitable premises for a Dog A.I.D. office. Through Erica's constant contact with Chase County Voluntary Services, we found a small office in the CVS building within our budget and moved in through December and January. Once we were established and working well Erica organised an 'Official Opening' in July. Aidan Burley our Patron was asked to officiate; he presented DOG A.I.D. with a plaque to mark the occasion. The opening generated a lot of interest and attendance from Local and County Councillors. These contacts will be cultivated in order to improve our profile in the local area.

### Workshops.

Our workshops are a vital part of our training for both clients and trainers. We reached our goal of 4 workshops over this year period, two for both clients and trainers, one held in the Kennel club building in Coventry last September and one in April here at Yarnfield. The success of the Yarnfield venue has meant that we have chosen to come back for our AGM this September. The two other workshops were for trainers to continue our commitment to their professional development. One was held in October in Stafford where we had trainers from Hearing Dogs come along and give a talk and demonstration on training

Hearing Dogs on the Saturday and on the Sunday one of our own trainers Keith Warwick gave a workshop on search dogs. All these insights to other disciplines improves our own trainers knowledge and helps ultimately with training our own clients. The second workshop was in July of this year when Kay Laurence gave a day's workshop on clicker training. It has been a pleasure to see how many trainers now come along to these workshops; no matter how long someone has been training there is always something new to learn.

ADUK also run workshops and six trainers from DOG A.I.D. went to the new Hearing Dogs centre at Bielby in Yorkshire in July. These workshops give trainers an opportunity to exchange views and learn about other Assistance Dog charities as well as seeing great presentations by invited speakers.

An invitation was extended from another member of ADUK, Medical Detection Dogs, Erica, David and I visited their centre in Milton Keynes in June. This meeting was very beneficial as their CEO was very generous in helping us by introducing us to their Patron who then offered help with funding applications. We were also treated to a demonstration of the work that they do. An invitation was extended to any Dog A.I.D. trainers who would like to visit the charity

### Fundraising.

So much has been achieved by the Fundraising Committee this year, David Marter has given us a report which you will see shows the increase in fundraising. The list of events has been amazing, just a few to mention are the Steve Leonard evening in November, this was a huge success and we hope that we can repeat it at some point in the future. Crufts in March as mentioned previously. A fundraising weekend organised by Mr Russ Evans living in Lancashire which has helped fund this workshop weekend. Strawberry Tea week which will now become an annual event as so many people enjoyed it and it was a good 'fundraiser'.

### The Office.

The office is now working well; Erica is there most days and has three volunteers who help on certain days on specific tasks such as printing and photocopying and collection boxes. We plan to increase the staffing as soon as we can get funding to do so in order to reduce Erica's workload

We increased the number of qualified dogs by 9 since our last AGM in 2010 the total of Full Assistance Dogs is now 29. We have over 70 clients and dogs in training and many more on our waiting list. Our trainers number 68. With more trainers now becoming aware of Dog A.I.D. and the need for trainers in certain areas, we are being approached rather than searching for trainers, a good position to be in, but we still have clients waiting where we do not have trainers, a situation that I suspect will never change!

Our IT support (and fellow committee member) Amanda Coleman has been a great asset making sure that our computers, both old and new, are working well. Amanda has introduced a programme called 'Dropbox' so that all committee members can access files whilst working from home which is still necessary as not all work can be taken on by the office until it is fully staffed. Our website is constantly being updated with news and events by Caroline Lewis. We should soon have a FAQ section to reduce the calls made to the office.

We now have a Facebook page which I know many of our clients and trainers visit.

The Quality First Document has been completed and we will continue with another Quality Assurance Document.

Janice Arthur who has been dealing with Access issues for Dog A.I.D clients reports that there have only been a couple of cases and they have been resolved amicably by her sending explanatory letters and information.

All of the above work means that thanks must go to many people who continually support and work for the benefit of the charity.

Erica Bennett for her non-stop work in and out of the office, Erica tirelessly organises all the office administration, local fundraising events such as bag-packing at local supermarkets and offers support and advice to other fundraisers around the country, she is part of the Fundraising Committee as well as secretary for the Executive Committee. Alan Bennett who supports all that Erica does and made a great contribution to our Cruft's team.

David Marter for running the FRC and helping increasing funds far beyond expectations.

All the members of the Fundraising Committee, Sue Line and Chris Titley, Amanda Coleman, Anita Castellina and a new member Diane Brassington.

Caroline Lewis for her continued support as a committee member and for web support. Angela Woodhouse for all the work she does with clients' applications and getting them paired with trainers, amongst many other jobs she does. Paul Mallatratt for agreeing to become our new Treasurer.

To all those who fundraise on our behalf such as Midge Walster and Mary Peasley in Kent, Niki Smith in Wales and Anita Castellina in Blackpool, and many more clients and trainers all over the country.

To Sally Allen who makes our bespoke dog jackets.

All those who gave their time to help at Crufts, we look forward to seeing them again next year.

### **Dog A.I.D's Plans for the future.**

In order to protect the charity and the trustees DOG A.I.D. needs to become either a Charity Limited by Guarantee, or a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, (CIO) the second option is a new initiative and if fully working by the time we have all our paperwork in place will be the route we take as it entails less work for the charity. If not we will become a Charity Limited by Guarantee. We hope to complete this by our next AGM. We plan to begin work on a Quality Assurance Document called PQASSO, this should help us when applying for funding.

Training is always uppermost in our minds whether it is for clients or trainers. To that end we plan to look at a pilot scheme which will allow waiting clients to access residential group training at a suitable venue. This may develop over 2 years if a suitable venue and funding can be found.

Further training initiatives may include the use of the internet to hold virtual training for either or both clients and trainers. This would give clients who live in areas not covered by our trainers an opportunity to begin training. For our trainers it would give another dimension to the mentoring. Practical training sessions at suitable venues will always be our main focus so that clients and trainers are able to have social contact as well as practical help. It is hoped that we will be able to roll out one workshop next year to the south of the country. I have been to visit Holton Lee in Dorset, this may be the venue for our next AGM [www.holtonlee.com](http://www.holtonlee.com) it has good accommodation and can provide sufficient outdoor and indoor space for our needs.

The committee have talked about a major fund-raising event which would include various disciplines on display, charity stands and possibly a fun dog show, but this would take a great deal of organising and the current committee are stretched to the limit, if we could find an event organiser it may be possible! If anyone would like to take on that role under the guidance of

the committee please get in touch.

In order for the charity to develop we are looking for a Business Mentor and a Grant Writer, we feel the experience that these people could bring would benefit the charity and make the future secure.

*Sandra Fraser Chairperson.*

### Official Opening of the new Dog A.I.D. Office.



Friday July 15<sup>th</sup> was the day chosen for our Official Office Opening!!!! Could we hold it outside in our small garden area, or should we opt for the safe bet of the committee room in the hub of the building? When we took a good look at how many people we were expecting, we decided that the committee room would be the best option; at least the weather would not affect the days' proceedings.

First off, tidy the office! Then do the normal day to day things, answering the phones, emails, paperwork, all the while being conscious of

time ticking away until we would be besieged by people.

Alan was despatched to the outside of the building to put up our banner and adorn the fence with pretty red and white bows, Sandra came in with the buffet, Erica carefully carried in the celebration cake, Angela arrived to help out where necessary and several volunteers are also on hand to help; the building began to buzz with excitement!

The office was to be opened by Mr Aidan Burley, M.P. for Cannock Chase, and many local dignitaries had been invited. We were very pleased to welcome 17 local and district councillors and also Chief Inspector Carl Ratcliffe, together with several of our clients and their Assistance Dogs.

Aidan Burley, who is also one of our patrons, gave a welcoming speech and presented a plaque to our Chairwoman Mrs Sandra Fraser. Sandra went on to address the gathering and shared some information about Dog A.I.D. and the road we have travelled so far.



Since moving in to our very first office earlier this year all records have been centralised and 2 volunteers have been taken on to help with the day to day running of the office. Sandra, Angela and Erica work from the office, with Erica being in there most days.

All the admin and training is carried out by volunteers, no one gets paid for anything! All money which is generated through memberships, fundraising etc is ploughed back into the charity to help with training, workshops etc. Volunteers are always needed to help, so if you feel you could spare an hour or two, please let us know and we will see what we can find for you to do!

The event was a great success, with many local councillors expressing an interest in the work of Dog AID. Further open days are currently being planned, where they will be invited along to see our clients and their dogs at work.

### **Dog A.I.D. at the House of Commons**



Erica and Alan Bennett were honoured to receive an invitation from our patron Mr Aidan Burley M.P. for Cannock Chase to join him for Tea on the Terrace at the House of Commons on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

We were told that it was smart dress but not formal; so what to wear.....? We asked Claire Wixon, Aidan's secretary, and true to her sense of humour, we were told thongs only!!!! That was definitely not going to happen, was it? But the opportunity for a new frock was not to be missed!

We joined the coach in Cannock at 10.30am and soon we were chatting to our fellow passengers, mainly councillors

from the Cannock and Stafford area together with their partners and other local charities. The wine was already flowing in certain parts of the coach; many of the people on board knew each other and were treating it as a right royal day out and included all of us newbies too.

Midday saw our arrival in London, and our coach driver decided to take us on a bit of a scenic journey so we could all see some of the famous buildings and areas around the Houses of Parliament, the Foreign Embassies and Oxford Street. Our coach driver had a really good knowledge of London having been born and bred there, and was a mine of information about the history of the various places. We were dropped very close to the Houses of Parliament, as we had a couple of hours before our 'Tea' we headed off for some sight-seeing.

We all met up at 3pm to be shown inside the Houses of Parliament, and were greeted by a guide in the Great Hall and given some history of the wonderful building. The most amusing fact was that Henry VIII used to play tennis in there! We were taken through the corridors and rooms and shown various statues, paintings, stained glass windows etc all steeped in history of course.

We were shown into a magnificent marquee directly alongside the River Thames with a wonderful view of the London Eye. What a fabulous spread was set before our eyes; sandwiches (with crusts removed of course!), fresh strawberries, clotted cream, scones, an array of small fancy cakes and champagne as well. Tea and coffee were also available for those who wanted it. A couple of M.P.'s dropped in for a chat and many photographs were taken with Aidan. We were also very privileged to be allowed to go inside the 'Strangers Bar' to which normally only M.P.'s are admitted, many famous faces were spotted too!

We were able to talk to many of the councillors about Dog A.I.D., and without exception all were very positive about our charity and promised their support at any forthcoming events, and indeed would even look at doing some fundraising for us.

After a very interesting day we boarded the coach at around 7pm for our return to Cannock, another merry picnic was enjoyed on the way back!

We had the most wonderful day representing Dog A.I.D. and would like to thank both Aidan and his PA Claire Wixon for all their work in putting the event together; we had a thoroughly enjoyable day out and came back full of enthusiasm for raising more funds to grow our charity.

## Google, ambassador and demonstration dog.



Google has now completed his second year working in the London Borough of Enfield Schools. What started as a demonstration of Google's skills, at assemblies, has developed into helping young people to read. His popularity has also meant he has been into Haringey and Hertfordshire Schools. Wherever he goes he gets invited back.

Assemblies always follow the same routine. The emphasis is changed according to the theme of the Assembly but usually follows the lines of helping others, friendships and teamwork. Google was very popular in one primary school before Christmas when he pulled the injured Rudolph in Santa's sleigh using the idea that Google was going to help deliver the presents instead.

All the children want to stroke and cuddle him, even the 16 year olds and 6<sup>th</sup> formers! His name gets chanted as he walks into his regular schools and he just laps up all of the attention. His calm demeanor goes a long way to allaying some of the fears young people have about dogs as often their only interaction is negative,

seeing aggressive dogs on the streets in the areas they live. The staff is equally impressed that a dog can take your jacket and socks off, do the washing and answer the phone etc.

The fascination that a dog can learn to do some of the skills that he demonstrates has led to the development of lessons where we talk about how he learns, which is no different from the way they learn. This 'Learn to Learn' lesson is very popular, particularly in Year 7, showing the children (and sometimes the teachers) the importance of rewards and making learning fun. The visual impact he has really cements the principles of a good learner. This is usually used as a lesson with young people who have challenging behaviour. The satisfaction they get out of Google doing something they ask is very rewarding. The concentration and behaviour they show when he is in the room is very different from their normal lessons! It makes no difference to Google if he is performing in front of small groups, classes or hundreds in an assembly; he takes it all in his stride.

Next academic year he is going to support Year 7 low level readers through a literacy project that has been specifically written around Google, his friends and his life. Every week his diary picks up different elements of behaviour and it is hoped, because he is non-threatening or judgemental, it will encourage children to read the diary extracts and give them confidence to tackle their fears of reading. In addition to all this, I often get asked if he can be used as a reward for individuals or classes. He has also made a transition DVD for Year 6's moving to Year 7.

A number of schools have raised money for Dog A.I.D. by adopting it as their annual charity. He is often the guest of honour at cake sales, bingo and other fund raising events.

St. Anne's Roman Catholic High School for Girls  
Year 8 have raised £440.

Swallow Class at Bengoe Primary School  
They have raised £50 from making cakes and selling them.

Enfield County School  
Year 8 played bingo at break times along with some other events  
raising money for Dog A.I.D.

Google is currently enjoying his 6 week holiday and recovering from the first week of walking and swimming in the Lake District with his friends Taggie and Duffie. He is looking forward to continuing his work in schools next year as a fully qualified level 3 Dog A.I.D. Ambassador and Demonstration Dog. *By Sandie Childs.*

## Fund Raising In Lancashire *by Deborah Cornwall*



A fantastic weekend fundraising event was hosted by Russ Evans at his home in Lancashire on behalf of Dog A.I.D. on 5th & 6th May 2011. Russ opened his home to 40 - 50 of his friends on both days. The weather was kind to us as Sandra and Erica set up their Tombola on the balcony and the food, which Russ and his friends provided, was set up inside. There were a number of dogs present on both days, from working and retired Guide Dogs, Support Dogs and well behaved pets. The afternoons began with a welcome by Russ and then Sandra explained the work of Dog A.I.D. and how the trainers help teach the clients how to train their dogs.

She did some clicker games with the guests and then I

told my story of Basil's rise from 8 week old Bichon Frise x Poodle puppy to fully qualified Assistance Dog at the age of 18 months. Basil then demonstrated some of the tasks he does for me, such as picking things up and finding the phone which my husband had hidden amongst the seats. Over the weekend the amazing sum of £1,240.00 was raised for Dog A.I.D.

A few weeks ago Russ phoned me to ask if I'd do another of these fundraising events with him as a dear friend of his, Auntie Annie, who is 98, wanted to see Basil and learn about Dog A.I.D. Of course I agreed and the date was set for 25th September. The sun shone, the guests arrived, the food was lovely and I took the floor to tell everyone about the fantastic work Dog A.I.D. does and how it is different from the other Assistance Dog Charities. I had plenty of volunteers for the clicker game and did some clicker training with Willow, Russ's dog. Basil then helped me with putting the washing on the line by fetching the pegs, he found the phone, picked up a wide variety of items of varying textures & then picked out 6 envelopes which were the raffle winners.



Another £290 was raised making the grand total £1,530.00 raised in Lancashire for Dog A.I.D.

## Forthcoming Events Staffordshire

### Saturday 27th March 2012

Avon Rd Business Centre Cannock 'A Psychic Investigation' led by Anita Castellina. There are only 20 tickets available. Please apply to Dog A.I.D. Office for tickets, £20 each or two for £30. Preference will be given to those who have not been before.

### Crufts March 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th 2012

After the success of this year we are hoping to do as well if not better in 2012. The stand needs to be covered for four days. If you feel able to help on one of those days please contact Sandra by e-mail [clanfraser33@hotmail.com](mailto:clanfraser33@hotmail.com)

### Thankyou from Dog A.I.D.

Our thanks to Mathew Rouse from Tug-E-Nuff Dog Gear based in Exmouth, Devon, who has kindly donated a number of tugs to Dog A.I.D. Tug-E-Nuff hand-make their own tugs and stock a wide range of high quality tugs to suit every type of dog, as well as other products for your dog. For further information, please visit their website at [www.tug-e-nuff.co.uk](http://www.tug-e-nuff.co.uk)

## Strawberry Teas around the Country



Hanbury Dog Show  
£178

Jane Day Bank of  
England. Office tea  
£100

Strawberry Tea week next year is **2nd--8th July** so come on all our clients, friends and fund raisers, let's see if we can make it a bumper crop and double this years efforts.

### Strawberry Tea and BBQ

*A thank you from Holly Onslow and Crumble.*



We thought you would like to hear about our fundraising BBQ which we held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011. I would like to thank all our friends and family who not only came but who helped especially as we had to cancel the original date, which did fall on the Strawberry and Cream Week, at very short notice due to me having meningitis and being in hospital. We would also like to thank my parents who were unable to join us. They own a village shop in Somerset and donated a big glass jar full of 174 sweets, which we used as a game, 'who could guess the amount in the jar?' There was a lot of competition as who ever got closest won the jar.

We would also like to thank Asda in Hemel Hempstead who donated all the strawberries and cream for our BBQ!!! Which we also used to make fresh Strawberry & Cream Muffins and Strawberry Bakewell Tarts.



One of our friends who has spent a lot of time with Crumble and has looked after Crumble when we have been away and knows how important the training with Dog A.I.D. is, did a sponsored silence.

Amanda is the biggest chatterbox out of everyone I know! She started the silence at work, and spent the entire afternoon at the BBQ without talking!!! So from the sponsored silence, the sweet jar, the raffle tickets for the Dog A.I.D. Summer Raffle that we had and the donation box we raised £135.90 and everyone who came had a fantastic time!!!! We have since raised a further £15 from people who were unable to make the BBQ.



### Strawberry Tea in Newcastle-under-Lyme

Diane Brassington, her son Robert and his Dog Henry, who is currently working toward level 2 with Dog A.I.D. asked a whole host of friends and family from their local neighbourhood (Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire) to their strawberry event which just seemed to escalate into a 'Curry & Pimm's' afternoon, with strawberries, cakes and homemade biscuits being brought and sold. It was advertised in the local press and shop windows.

The local pub, The Westbury Tavern, offered to cook a huge batch of curry, rice and nan bread, with 2 local supermarkets donating the strawberries and cream. Diane also had the Pimm's donated by the company she worked for, and with all the cakes and biscuits made by friends and neighbours the whole day managed to raise a fantastic sum of £316. Luckily we had the weather on our side which made the day so much more enjoyable.



## Strawberry Tea in Pothmadog, North Wales



This summer me and Buddy have been raising both funds and awareness of Dog A.I.D. at Greenacres caravan park in Porthmadog, North Wales. We wanted to say thanks very much to our great friends who have been so supportive of me and Buddy and his training, and also helped out Dog A.I.D. with their kind donations. Our main event was a strawberry and cream afternoon on the 9<sup>th</sup> July in which we managed to raise over £180. We have since had more donations and sold some more merchandise. Our next event planned before the end of season is a 'pie and peas party'.



A special thanks to our friend Paula Boulton who has put a lot of work helping to organise our events and also made collections for Dog A.I.D. at her workplace.

Also thanks to the manager on the caravan site who has let me and Buddy use the entertainment complex for training sessions. Looking forward to organising more events on the caravan site next season. If any Dog A.I.D. clients are planning on any holidays in or around Porthmadog next year do let us know as me and Buds would love a meet up on the beach!!! *Jodie and Buddy*

## Fund Raising in the South East



*Millie meeting the Mayor of Snodland.*

**June 11th RSPCA Fun Day** attended by Alison and Derek Tompsett and Alison's niece. Thank you for your efforts and a sum of £179.84. Alison's husband Derek works for Royal Mail and has obviously been doing some PR work, because - - - -

A cheque was presented to Midge from Royal Mail employee Richard Hinchcliffe. From March of this year Richard decided to give up smoking ready for his pending wedding, he raised a total of £130, the money he would have normally spent on cigarettes. He chose Dog A.I.D. from a list of charities given to him by the people he worked with.

**June 4th Boot sale £78.78.** Where we met the train driver of the Hogwarts Express from Harry Potter's film and his wife, one of the mums of the children in the film. They are kindly attending two of our forthcoming events to talk to the children and sign autographs.

**June 26th Teston Park Dog Show** Maidstone Kent £172.49 Where Hextable dog club member Jane Day came and presented me with a cheque for £100 which she raised at her office in the Bank of England. Jane had been so impressed with the work Dog A.I.D. does that she looked at our website and saw the 'Strawberry Tea' poster and did an office 'Strawberry Tea'. Jane also put our charity forward for the Bank of England's charity awards, we have since received a further £500 from the bank. There is a saying 'God moves in mysterious ways' well they certainly have for the South East this year. Many thanks to all those involved.

**July 10th Foal Farm Animal Rescue Centre Fun Day** Biggin Hill Kent. £199.77

**August 4th W.I. Talk** Cuxton Kent £90.25

**Sept 25th Crystal Palace Sponsored Dog Walk** Approx £200 *awaiting more sponsor money.*

I would like to thank two new trainers Linda Bunting and Lorraine Godfrey and their husbands who have supported Dog A.I.D. SE at our events this year and of course Mary Peasley who works tirelessly making items, recruiting crafters and 'begging' from companies and local shops for items to sell or use for tombola at our events.

**Forthcoming Events** October 15th Mary's House Party and Dog A.I.D. SE 10th anniversary.

October 31st Talk for Macula Disease Bexley group.

November 12th Quilters Group Exhibition Welling Kent.

December 3rd Craft and Table Top Sale Hextable Kent.

## Dog A.I.D. Merchandise for Sale

### **Dogs Do The Cleverest Things DVD.**

Our DVD is a must have for anyone connected with dogs and at £5 will make a great stocking filler for both children and adults. It shows how training pet dogs can change people's lives when given the appropriate training. It is an excellent DVD to take into schools or show at WI or clubs to promote interest in the work we do.

Part One shows dogs doing fun tricks and problem solving activities.

Part two includes more advanced exhibition exercises similar to those seen at Crufts and a performance of Heelwork To Music by Richard Curtis.

Part Three shows how a dog can enhance the life of a disabled person when trained as an Assistance Dog. This includes finding and fetching named objects, opening and closing doors, help with the washing and lending a paw at the supermarket.



Squiggle Pen £2.75



Road Refresher bowl  
large £11.95 small £9.99



Cosy clickers  
£4.50



Dog A.I.D. Bandannas  
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Canvas shopping bag 18inches  
x 15inches  
£4.95



Small jute bag  
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Retractable key rings  
with Dog A.I.D. Logo £3.00

Montage greeting  
cards 5 in pack £2.75  
all one design



Car stickers, wording is Dog  
A.I.D. Supporter £2.00

**All occasion 4 card packs. blank inside, two of each design as shown below**

Pack A



Pack B



Pack C



Pack D



Pack E



Pack F



Pack G



Pack H



Pack I



Pack J



Pack K



Pack L



We hope you will find a gift to buy for a friend or one of your family and support us at the same time. Postage and packing charges are shown on the order form enclosed.

**Don't forget the Dog A.I.D. Calendar shown on facing page.**



# Calendar 2012

*"Through Dog A.I.D. we have become a team, learning and enjoying life together."*



Jodie with Rossi and Buddy



Janice with Barney

*"My best friend Barney who makes me laugh and is such a great character and companion to be with"*

*"With confidence, friendship and loads of fun too; we travel as a partnership should, through life, caring equally for each other's wellbeing."*



Mo with Breeze

## Training Pet Dogs to Change Lives

Registered Charity Number: 1098619

As you can see the 2012 Calendar is now available (£4.50 each). Orders can be placed through our On-Line Shop, using the link from the Dog A.I.D. web page at [www.dogaid.org.uk](http://www.dogaid.org.uk) Alternatively fill in the enclosed order form and send to the Dog A.I.D. Office.

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everybody that has sent photo's over the last few months to build up our picture library. This gives us a large selection to choose from when we need it for different publicity material. A selection of which have been used for the 2012 Calendar.

### 2013 Calendar– Photo Appeal

Our chosen theme for the 2013 Calendar will be 'Then & Now'. So if you have any pictures of your Assistant Dog star (with new jacket style) and ones of them as a puppy, especially scenic shots, please send them to Dave Marter either by email to [k9.david.marter@gmail.com](mailto:k9.david.marter@gmail.com) or pop them on a CD and post c/o the Dog A.I.D. office.

NOTE: I'm afraid pictures taken with a mobile phone are not generally suitable for larger scale printing. Also please note if sending pictures by email ensure your email does not automatically reduce the resolution of the file to a smaller size as these similarly cannot be reproduced for printing. Generally picture files need to be at least 1 Mb in size. Thankyou.

## Our First Workshop

My weekend at Yarnfield was not just the workshop and I feel some background is important.

What possessed me to go to a workshop???? I used to be very confident; I drove all over the country both as an entertainer and a volunteer. Then Fibromyalgia hit Sept 2001 after an RTA and sent my confidence into an abyss. The pain was horrific, I wouldn't leave the house alone and Chronic Depression took control. I am fighter and despite everything tried to find ways to help myself. I told a Social Worker how Ruby cheered me and she suggested training her to assist me. Since DogAID came into my life I *have* a life again!

My trainer the wonderful Lyn Fleet has told me to "Chill" more times than I can count. I spoil my darling Ruby's behaviour by panicking. Lyn's first visit (and the second and the third) I was shaking from head to foot before she arrived and for hours after she left. Anyone would think she was scary!

Thanks to the training with Lyn I plucked up courage and, a short while ago Ruby took me to the corner shop to buy gravy. (We were served at the door). My husband (Andy) and daughter (Keziah) were astounded and thrilled.

So ... going to a workshop; all alone, just Ruby and I. Petrified doesn't come close to how I was feeling!

In the car I text myself *'Lyn says "Chill"'*. I repeated it in my head over and over as I shook and couldn't even speak to Andy, answering him with nods and grunts.

Andy drove me to the hotel and took me in. As promised I was greeted with smiles and welcomes. Andy and I dropped my belongings in my room and Sandra took us to the Sports Hall.

HUGE ROOM, people and dogs everywhere!!! It was a good job Andy was pushing me in my wheelchair or I would have collapsed from fear, my legs went to jelly and I clung to Ruby's lead willing her to calm me. Andy said goodbye and my world left the room. I wanted to scream to him to come back. I wasn't ready to be left all alone. Ruby is amazing but I didn't know a soul.

Factually, everyone was in a large circle, each person and their dog had their own space. Everything was quiet and calm. Ruby barked each time a dog came near. Sandra, and her sausages, slipped into the chair next to me to click and treat Ruby when she quietened. My fears drifted away as I too calmed and my stresses quietened with each click. I would not be judged; my physical and mental health would be considered. This was, as Lyn had promised, a safe haven where I could learn more about myself, Ruby and training.

I watched as Angela explained Rally O and swore to myself that I would try everything on offer. Ruby has dedicated herself to me and I owe her, so I promised her I would do my very best. I was thrilled to see Mandy with Wolfie the GSD demonstrating. Wolfie was a name I recognised and it was great to feel I 'knew' someone.



The rest of the morning is a bit of a blur. My concentration levels rose and dipped (Fibrofog is so annoying). All the others looked like experts to me! I remember enjoying watching Diane and her son with Henry the Labrador; Border Collie Badger watching Hazel intently, and, Margaret's Labrador Penny doing finish both ways round.

I am sure the others were brilliant too, but my mind is blank. Anyway, I know Ruby and I had a trial run of each of the activities. At one point I stopped in front of a sign because I couldn't figure out right from left. Angela was very patient and reassurances came from all around me. Ruby had a look around as we walked the activi-

ties, I was thinking *'Oh the shame, I'm letting her down again'* when Angela reminded me that it was ok for Ruby to be interested in the other dogs.

Again I realised no-one would criticise me for learning.

When I sat down I was shaking again, but I was thrilled and excited too. I had done it! I had joined in! No worries in my head were going to stop me after that.

During the break Stephen with Buddy the Labradoodle was particularly helpful, allowing Ruby to say hello then calling Buddy as I called Ruby. This was great practice as Ruby wants desperately to play and can get noisy because recently she hasn't had enough practice. I was assisted (not sure now who by) in getting a cuppa (the milk jug was too heavy for me) but it gave me confidence. Usually I would do without rather than let a stranger help me.

Lunch time I pushed my wheelchair slowly towards the restaurant. Victoria offered to push me, I accepted. It may not seem much but that was massive for me. Both that Victoria had offered and that I had accepted.

We chatted amiably as we headed for lunch. Ruby spotted and mistook Hazel for my friend, Ruby's favourite Aunt Jackie. Ruby barked for all she was worth '*Auntie Jackie it's me, here I am, fuss me, fuss me!!*' I was embarrassed but again no one judged or criticised, and it was great training practice for Ruby.

Lunch in the restaurant; a massive challenge. We practice in my local Salvation Army Café as they are happy for Ruby to go in, but this was different! A real hotel, a real restaurant *and* lots of other dogs. Would Ruby behave? Would she pick up on my stress? I needn't have worried. Ruby was no bother whilst I had been adopted by Michelle, Victoria and Margaret and was well taken care of.



After the AGM I chatted with Stuart and Ros (Meg the Boxer was asleep elsewhere). I was made to feel a part of this group of megastars with their megadogs.

At the end of the day Mandy with Wolfie and Janice with Barney the Beagle were in the foyer in my room block as I was going out. Ruby barked and barked. I wanted the ground to swallow me! Mandy and Janice said to let her get on with it till she was bored and so I relaxed; I felt I had two more new friends. Ruby stopped barking and turned to me. Mandy, Janice and I howled with laughter. Ruby wanted her reward for stopping barking! Where were you Sandra?

You now have a background to my first day at the workshop and why all of this contributed to my experience of the workshops on the Sunday.

On Saturday Ruby and I had made milestone achievements; new human friends, exquisite dog friends; and today we were training, wow! I barely slept but I woke feeling marvellous. I even put on some make-up. I was here with Ruby and we were both doing well. Andy and Keziah would be so proud. Then I badly misunderstood a text and thought there was a serious problem at home. I couldn't get through on the phone and started to crack. Erica (and others) were superb, I had a cry, I heard from home and everything was fine. Yet again I was reassured that Dog A.I.D. people care, Dog A.I.D. people listen, at Dog A.I.D. Ruby and I were safe.

We went up in the lift to the room we would be in for the day. Tables separated the edges of the room into compartments so we each had our own space. To my right was Thea (trainer) with her client Louise and Bronte Lab. To my left was Kirsten (trainer) with her client Martine and Fen GSP. Both dogs are beautiful and Ruby was content to be between them. The humans were supportive and Kirsten practiced greetings with both Fen and Ruby.

There have been many problems with Ruby and greetings as she is overly friendly and being so small (she weighs just barely 3Kgs) she feels she must jump or lean on people to say hello. The general public have added to the difficulties as they mostly want her to jump on them!

Lyn has been helping me work on this and I was delighted to have the opportunity to try out greetings with knowledgeable people. I was delighted with Ruby's behaviour



Sandra demonstrated target training with Bonnie the spaniel (owned by client Jo whose trainer is Julia). We then all did Target training. Ruby and I enjoy this and after targeting the bright coloured piece of paper we were given, I got out my target stick and we had a play.

Lunch was enjoyable, Ruby and I were surrounded by new friends and felt a real part of Dog A.I.D. Alan sold me some goodies and when I dropped my purse Ruby passed it to me just as we practiced at home.

A demonstration of targeting with the right paw then the left paw was interesting. Ruby and I didn't manage that quickly but I wasn't concerned because Poodles are latent learners so Ruby was more likely to cotton on later. Also up till then I had focused on her using both paws together because she doesn't have much weight to push buttons etc. I asked Sandra if I needed to work on separating them and she assured me it is my choice to do what suits my dog and me. Lyn has told me this repeatedly, but I had this idea that she was trying to be nice to me. My expectations of myself and Ruby are not always sensible. (YES OK LYN! Often too high.)

*Isn't it strange how sometimes the most important things one learns are not those that are actively taught, but rather those that dawn on us slowly?*

Watching Sandra demonstrating putting items in a receptacle with Bonnie was awe-inspiring. I realised some of the errors I make with Ruby and I couldn't wait to try it for myself.

There were so many cool things to try out; a dog puzzle, fly ball, a cupboard to open or close, a button to push, lots of items to target or pick up, various receptacles for putting things into. Ruby and I were both exhausted but I know that if she really wanted to stop she just would, so we tried everything! She opened the puzzle with her nose, she leaned on the Fly ball (Pad?) and the button, neither moved she is so tiny but she did it and I was thrilled.

At the end of the training day, Caz with Asha Labradoodle, her daughter Kyra and I chatted over a quick cuppa. We had shared photos of our dogs on the Yahoo forum and it was lovely to meet for real.

Margaret, Penny, Michelle, Victoria and Amos kindly took Ruby and I to their lounge to wait for Andy and Keziah to collect me about 7pm. We reflected on the weekend.

Throughout the weekend Ruby had fun during break times playing, running free, greeting the other dogs. This was brilliant because I knew I could trust both dogs and owners. I could trust them and focus on Ruby, instead of trying to watch every dog in case they ate Ruby. Everyone helped us. During indoor training times Ruby had a wonderful time, learning, watching, playing and sleeping. Everyone supported us.

And me? I wanted another day, maybe another two, or even three! I am home now and I have another chunk of **me** back.

Thank you Dog A.I.D. committee, thank you trainers, thank you clients, thank you dogs!  
We can't wait for the next training weekend, count us in!!

## Trainer Elaine Fairhurst shares her excellent ideas making training fun.

### Assistance Agility

All the exercises are relevant to the assistance dog training – push, pull, pick up, go through, recall, stays etc. The intention is to create calm confident dogs not agility dogs.

Each handler walks the course with their dog and are marked on heelwork whilst doing so. During heelwork the 'hooligans' bang tins, honk a horn and squeeze a squeaky toy cheering as they did. After the heelwork rounds we have a break for a cuppa before starting on the obstacles.



*Weaving in and out of chairs*



*This is the bit I love !!*



*Through this and then that!  
The things we do for love!!*



I lay food 'traps' and distractions, see 'Lulu' with balloons in one hand and a sausage in the other.



*Hi Lulu Give us a bit of yer sausage!!*



*Get in there!?Really!!*



*If I take my eyes off her for  
two minutes she wanders  
off!!*

*I have a feeling she has an  
ulterior motive in asking  
me to pull this*



Everybody enjoys it and we have some good laughs.

Everyone is putting a lot of effort into training their dogs and they're all coming along really well at their different levels

## Achievements

### Level One Good Companion



**Helene Barton and Adel** - Trainer Deb Gornall  
**Robert Brassington and Henry** - Trainer Sandra Fraser  
**Christine Corps and Bliss** - Trainer Cath Beech  
**Caroline Edwards and Asha** - Trainer Claire Wellstead  
**Jodie Griffin and Buddy** - Trainer Sandra Fraser  
**Debbie Abbott and Bramwell** - Trainer Janet Tandy  
**Margaret Hood and Penny** - Trainer Hazel Reynolds  
**Paul Mason and Amber** - Trainer Angela Woodhouse



### Level Two Advanced Good Companion

**Jane Butland and Sky** - Trainer Pam Simpson  
**Remini Capel and Marley** - Trainer Paddy Driscoll  
**Jodie Griffin and Buddy** - Trainer Sandra Fraser  
**Ajax Kone and Bruno** - Trainer Jeanne Price  
**Kate Ring and Dylan** - Trainer Pam Simpson

### Assistance Dog Level Three Final Certificate

**Remini Capel and Marley** - Trainer Paddy Driscoll  
**Jodie Griffin and Buddy** - Trainer Sandra Fraser

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## Oscar to the rescue. *By Rosie Pocock*

Brilliant little Oscar has just instinctively helped me. My bath lift got stuck on the pop up waste control as I was coming up and it wouldn't go down again. I asked Oscar for my button but he picked up my mobile phone and handed it to me ! This was the first time he has done this, I have never got around to asking him to pick up and hand me my mobile, too worried about him damaging it by dropping it etc I was over the moon with praise as he just picked it up and gave it to me. He then handed me a towel to dry my hands or keep warm don't know but it was welcome. I asked Oscar for my button again as I don't remember the telephone number for the call button but this time rather than give me the button (there are two) he brought me the plastic shoe containing the buttons, one call button and one powered door-opening button. By this time I was being overwhelmed with things and so pleased with Oscar who was now sitting beside me offering his head to stroke to comfort me.



Knowing it takes time for help to arrive pressing the call button, I decided to try again getting the lift to go down so I could clear the pop up waste plug, it would not go down due to a safety feature, the lift won't go down if not enough power to go up again. So I tried pushing the lift backwards away from the end of the bath with all my strength and it just cleared, probably due to the fact I had difficulty sticking it down after cleaning it earlier, but it cleared just with an awful clunk that worried Oscar and I was up and out.!

I was just so amazed by Oscar and his instinct to hand me my phone when I have never asked him before.

Oscar is really impressive every day. But this help in what could have been an emergency (I was certainly stuck) is just so wonderful. I just don't know how to reward him but a cuddle and a game of ball was what Oscar seemed to want, Oscar retrieving the ball at speed directly into my hand seems to be the order of the day.

## Access to parks via kissing gates *by Alison Tompsett*

Over the last three years access to some of the parks in Snodland Kent have become inaccessible to me and my dog Millie since I have had to start using my mobility scooter due to 'kissing gates' being fitted at entrances, so I was delighted when I received a phone call from a member of the council asking me to have a look at some new access gates. After a lot of consultation with the council we agreed on the new design 'K frames'. When the frames were fitted Millie and I and my friend Karen were asked to help with trying the frames to make sure they were suitable for different size wheelchairs and scooters. The frames were a great success and now allow many disabled people and parents with buggies to enjoy the parks.



## Holly Retires

Niki Smith wishes to announce the retirement of her dog Holly. Holly has been an excellent ambassador for Dog A.I.D. winning several competitions for her caring role. We all wish Holly a happy and restful retirement..

# Dog Assistance In Disability

Providing access to dog training for people with physical disabilities, enabling them to train their pets in general obedience and in specialised tasks which will help them lead a fuller and more independent life.

## Trainer Application Packs.

**Sandra Fraser:** Chairperson, Senior Trainer & Trainer Co-ordinator. 01743 891314  
E-mail [clanfraser33@hotmail.com](mailto:clanfraser33@hotmail.com)

## Treasurer Paul Mallatratt

E-mail [paul.mallatratt@rsmtenon.com](mailto:paul.mallatratt@rsmtenon.com)

## Dog A.I.D. Office.

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01543 899463  
General\_admin@dogaid.org.uk

## Lyn Fleet Forum Moderator

[lynfleet@msn.com](mailto:lynfleet@msn.com)

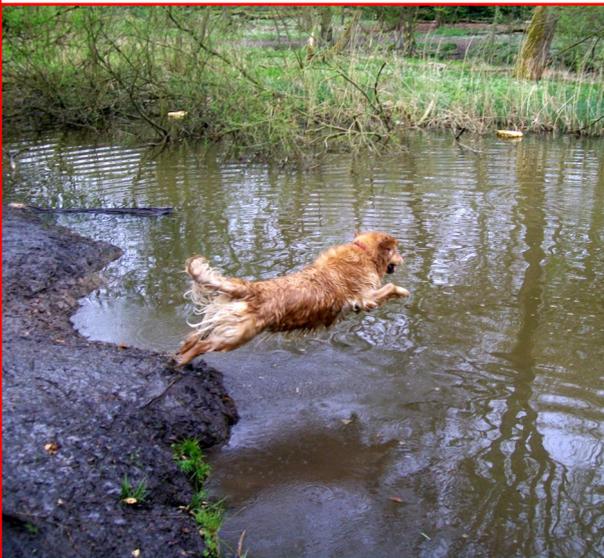
**Web address** <http://www.dogaid.org.uk/>

**The Aims of the Charity** *The training and instruction of dogs to act as efficient and safe companions and assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities. To train and educate people with physical disabilities in the proper and safe use of dogs. To provide such additional services and facilities for the relief of people with physical disabilities as the organisation shall from time to time deem fit.*

## Objectives

1. To provide access to dog training for people with physical disabilities.
2. To educate people with physical disabilities how they can best care for their dog in relation to their disabilities.
3. To educate people with disabilities how they can create the best bond between themselves and their dog.
4. To ensure the dog is well socialised in relation to the environment it is to live and work in.
5. To help people with disabilities to train their dogs in basic control both inside and outside the home.
6. To help people with disabilities train their dogs to carry out specialised tasks in order to assist them to manage their disability in everyday life.
7. Where it is required to seek rights of access to individual shops and institutions.

## Sports Boy Spencer



Spencer is a 7 year old Golden Retriever, and as you can see from the photo, loves water! He has been a part of our family since the age of eleven weeks, and I think we can all safely say he has been the best birthday/Christmas present we could ever have wanted.

Although Spencer is my dog, when I am at school he is my mum's assistance dog, and is still very much attached to her and continues to be a huge help to her around the house, and in everyday life. Now he is getting older, his enthusiasm for his work,

albeit slightly slower, has never faltered. He really is mans (or womans!) best friend. Emma

Note from Emma's Mum...

Despite the energetic image, this much-loved Assistance Dog spends much of his time either asleep near my feet or bringing articles to me which I've just put down, or closing doors which I've just spent 10 minutes opening! This 'helpful' mode is usually preceded by the arrival of my breakfast/lunch/dinner. Carol Hill

