

Winter Newsletter
2009
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Burns Pet Nutrition



Mandy Ireland's dog Wolfie

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Minutes of AGM held at Moulton College
12 September 2009

1. Those present – Val Harvey, Chris Mancini, Amanda J Kirikmaa, Ajax Cone, Sara Eldrett, Hazel Reynolds, Mandy Ireland, Janice Arthur, Jude McDermott, Sam Williams, Carol Aldridge, Deborah Coles, Penny Laverick, Margaret Hood, Stuart Fisher, Ros Fisher, Catherine Parmenter, Dave Marter, Sue Line, Chris Titley, Jayne Harvey, Midge Walster, Sandra Fraser, Ju Gosling, Carol Beaman, Michelle Evans
2. Apologies – none received
3. Minutes of 2008 AGM – No minutes could be found, assumed lost in transit between old and new offices. To avoid any future mishaps Sandra provided a dedicated book for the minutes to be written in and typed up from.
4. Chairperson's report – See attached. Read out by Angela Woodhouse, proposed by Chris Titley, seconded by Sue Line
5. Treasurers report – See attached. Read out by Angela Woodhouse, for Caroline Lewis. Proposed by Chris Titley, seconded by Sue Line
6. Val Harvey asked if expenses could be paid by BACS. Caroline said she would consider this. Michelle Evans congratulated the committee on their efforts.
Ju would like to take a collecting tin, Midge Walster would deal with this.
Sue Line suggested that we allow some form of membership to 'friends' of Dog AID who would like to support the charity and make regular contributions. Caroline said that she is reluctant to do this as she thought this would mean giving out our bank details, however, she would enquire with the bank to see if we could set up a separate account for this purpose.
7. Angela Woodhouse stood down as Chairperson. Sandra Fraser proposed for Chair by Val Harvey, seconded by Janice Arthur, carried unanimously.
8. Jayne Harvey proposed for Secretary by Mandy Ireland, seconded by Dave Marter, carried unanimously.
9. Caroline Lewis proposed as Treasurer by Jude McDermott, seconded by Michelle Evans, carried unanimously.
10. 2 new committee member proposals – Deborah Coles and David Marter, and Angela Woodhouse to remain on committee. Deborah Coles proposed by Sue Line, seconded by Sara Eldrett. Dave Marter proposed and seconded by same. All three were voted onto the committee unanimously.
11. An address was given by the new Chair, giving grateful thanks to Angela Woodhouse for her services as previous Chair. Sandra Fraser (Chair) outlined her "New Vision" for DogAID
12. AOB – Ju Gosling brought our attention to the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) who have suggested that small charities with less than a given amount of income per year no longer need to hold AGM's, and suggested we review whether the AGM is necessary. Also N.C.V.O.(National Council for Voluntary Organisations) has free membership for charities, which needs to be investigated
13. Centralising assessments. Consideration had been given to centralising assessments for levels 2 and 3, particularly in the light of only one person being available to travel any distance. Centralising assessments would mean that more clients could be assessed with less waiting time. Funding for overnight stays will be available. Discussion took place on the pros and cons of this suggestion with various views from clients. Central assessments would be held more regularly. Ju Gosling suggested trainers travel to clients. Sue Line suggested we continue to offer both options, this was agreed. Travelling expenses for trainer to go to client to re-certificate. A short discussion took place over the concern about expenses for some clients re-certification. It was agreed that a ceiling needs to be decided upon. A suggestion was made that there could be a set amount for re-certification irrespective of where the client lived so that all clients knew how much they would be contributing annually.
Sue Line proposed central assessments unless personal difficulties impose a need for trainer to travel to client. Seconded by Michelle Evans (carried by vote). Samantha Williams proposed flat rate cost/donation/fee for assessment and re-certification – seconded by Sue Line and agreed by all. Figure to be decided by committee.

The meeting closed at 5.14pm

Dog A.I.D. Committee.

Sandra Fraser Chairperson.
Jayne Harvey Secretary.
Caroline Lewis Treasurer.
Angela Woodhouse.
David Marter.
Deborah Coles.

Welcome to two new committee members.

David Marter, (see page 16.) and Deborah Coles.

Deborah lives in Northamptonshire with her husband and two teenage daughters. She has owned Labradors for many years and currently has two. She has run her own dog training club for 5 years and is currently studying for a degree in Canine Behaviour and Training. She says she is looking forward to helping raise the profile of Dog A.I.D. by becoming a committee member.

Page 3 girl Becca My Little Angel.

I've had this breed (Australian Shepherd Dog) for about 15 years, but Becca is by far the most clever one I've ever had or even seen. I call her my little angel because she just knows what I need or want her to do and started bringing me things when she was only 10 weeks old. Who would have known I would need her to be my assistance dog?



When training her to pick up my cane, because she didn't like it, we wrapped a tea towel around it and had her bringing different items. When we said, bring the tea towel, she unwrapped it from around the cane and brought it! Needless to say, training was over for the day! She never ceases to amaze us with what she does...tell her once and that's it...my little angel!

Nina Burgess

We hope you will support Dog A.I.D. by selling the raffle tickets enclosed.
Stubs and unsold tickets need to be returned by November 1st.

Spring Workshop April 9th 10th & 11th 2010.

Avon Business & Leisure Centre, Avon Rd, Cannock, Staffs. WS11 1LH.

Friday 9th Trainers only,

The programme will contain disability awareness and professional development.



MANY HAPPY 'RETURNS'!



Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th Clients and Trainers.

The work will be based around recalls and retrieves, plus other exercises.

As always we welcome suggestions from both clients and trainers for any behaviour they wish to cover.

Further details will be available early in the New Year .

To reserve a place contact Sandra Fraser

phone 01743 891314

e-mail clanfraser33@hotmail.com

Dog A.I.D. A.G.M. September 2009

Chairperson's Report

Welcome everybody to our 2009 AGM and Workshop. Every time I write this Report I begin by saying that we have had a year of change and development.

However, this year has truly been a rollercoaster of change and development.

Changes.

It began in September 2008 when Dolores Palmer resigned as General Manager, which meant that a large part of the work that she had been doing for so long was shared out between the rest of the Committee. From then until the end of the year was truly a steep learning curve and a lot of hard work. Sandra Fraser was in charge of trainers and general matters, Jayne Harvey took over organising and reviewing paperwork and procedures, I the client lists and matching them to trainers where possible and then taking them through to becoming proper DogAID clients. Caroline Lewis took total charge of all the finances: cheque books, bank account, and expenses claims.

In January 2009 Dolores then resigned as a member of DogAID and now the Committee were on their own. However, we pulled together and as a team we have now got DogAID on track to continue our work.

Committee.

We thank Penny Laverick who joined our Committee last year. She was a very welcome addition, but we lost her as she moved to Suffolk. But fortunately she is still with us as a trainer.

We are still in need of more Committee members: this is particularly urgent now as we are expanding rapidly.

Accreditation.

The big issue for us was of course our AD (UK) Accreditation which we have been working towards for some time. This was our priority at the beginning of 2009. Fortunately Jayne Harvey is superb at paperwork and with Sandra's help, turned out an immaculate file to be sent to the HQ prior to our Assessment. This was combined with our Spring Workshop on April 21/22. We thank all those members of Dog A.I.D. who attended, both trainers and clients: we needed a good number of clients at different levels to show the assessors the range of our work as the way we do things is so different to all the other Assistance groups. Particular thanks to Brian Holland and his Assistance dog Harvey, who came up from Sussex to help us out at short notice. We were told unofficially on the day that we had made it, but the official confirmation came through in July. However, we are now members of AD(UK) with all that entails, and can use their logo.

Fundraising.

As always this is an ongoing issue for us. Fortunately we do have people who fundraise for us and those who make donations and we are truly grateful for all they do.

However, we have taken a huge step forward as at last we have a Fundraising Committee which has already had several meetings. David Marter, Sue Line, Chris Titley, Helen Tindill and Alan and Erica Bennett are the members. We welcome them warmly as this is an area which needs concentrating on and we as the current Committee just do not have the time to do this as well as everything else.

We also have, of course, the South East Fundraising Committee headed by the invaluable Midge Walster who continue to help keep Dog A.I.D. going through their efforts. Very many thanks are due to all of you.

I must mention the wonderful Variety Show held in Hailsham in June this year, organised by Mo Aegerter and her husband Chris. An awful lot of work went into this event, and we also thank Richard Curtis who appeared for nothing to help Dog A.I.D.

Details of other various activities and the moneys raised are covered in our Newsletter.

On July 18th we attended the Guide Dogs Gala Day at the National Agricultural Centre. We had a stall, which attracted a fair amount of attention, and several of our members with dogs at different levels came along to lend their support for which we thank them: Mandy Ireland with her newly qualified Assistance Dog Wolfie, Karen Davies with her Assistance Dog Sandy, and Lisa Lawton with Katie, newer clients: Sue Line with Sandy -again- Jane Brittain with Tiger, Rosie Pocock with Oscar, all flew the flag for Dog A.I.D. Hopefully next year we will have that bit more experience and will have even more members to show the public what we do.

We have also started selling various items with our logo on. We began last year with the Calendars which went well, then moved onto bandannas, pens, lanyards and bags. Thanks are again due to Caroline for her work in this area, and her wonderful father whose practical help has been invaluable to us.

Website.

A new Website has been needed for some time now, but finding someone with the time and expertise to take on this task, has been a stumbling block as finances are so limited.

Caroline Lewis volunteered to re-design the old one and it is still work in progress, but at least we have taken a step forward.

Again, thanks to Caroline for stepping in as IT expertise is rather lacking at the moment in the rest of the Committee.

As we gain more clients and trainers, and more publicity, an eye catching and informative website becomes more important as it is often the first port of call for the general public.

Membership.

As at the time of writing we have: 16 clients going through the application process.
20 probationers.
8 at Level 1, 4 at Level 2, 19 Assistance Dogs.
A total of 68 clients.

We have 42 trainers, however not all have clients. We also have 35 waiting clients who do not have a trainer.

Many Thanks from all at Dog A.I.D

 Sadly Angela has decided to step down from her position as Chairperson. She has held this since Dog A.I.D. began and feels it is time to pass the pen to another.

So at this point in the proceedings Angela was thanked and given a small gift for all her hard work and commitment to Dog Aid over the years. However we are not about to let her go and she will still be an active member of the team and continue to act for and train for Dog AID.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF DOG AID *Sandra Fraser*



A great big thank you to Angela for steering the charity through the last year in particular and for the many years previously.

My task is to now move Dog AID forward. I want to be more inclusive in all areas; with the committee, with the fundraising and with the work that Dog AID does.

Do you have a vision of where you would like to see Dog Aid in the next 5 – 10 years? If so I would like to hear it.

I would like to see DA become as effective as our peers at ADUK.

Keeping true to our mission, to help people train their own dogs, but maybe provide an alternative to training at home, which we will always do, but maybe have a central training facility in order to offer help to more people and encompass more challenging disabilities such as autism.

Dog AID needs help in many areas in order to function more efficiently. By the end of next year we are looking to recruit an office administrator with good IT skills, something that the existing committee members lack and therefore struggle to 'keep up appearances'.

Our trainers deserve some investment in their professional development. If we can offer a few trainers specific areas of development, such as training with hearing dogs or courses in training dogs for children with autism, they will then be able to roll out that knowledge to other trainers through our workshops, helping more trainers become even more effective.

In order to do all this we need to make 2010 the best fundraising year so far! We have already started as we now have a fundraising committee who are extremely enthusiastic, the skills and experience they bring are varied and I have no doubt that they will do us proud; but every little helps! (According to Tesco) so, Dog AID asks each individual client and trainer to take part with fundraising events where ever possible.

The committee will continue to work together especially with 2 new members, however there are 2 areas that we could outsource to either trainers and or clients, they are Public Relations and Publicity and Access coordinating. Neither of these areas are covered by anyone. ADUK have sub committees for both PR and Access and at present I'm the only person going to the meeting, for me it's too many 'balls in the air', I have a job to keep abreast of things. There needs to be people who are willing to take on these roles and become involved and keep the rest of us informed. So if anyone is interested please see me after the meeting or contact me by phone or email.

I'm excited by the challenge that's before me but confident that I will be supported by a great team.

We are now officially members of Assistance Dogs International and Assistance Dogs UK and have the acceptance paper work in place. In the meantime Sandra has been attending the ADUK Committee meetings with agenda subjects such as access, public awareness and regulating of various procedures.

We have also been invited to our peers establishments to exchange ideas, share problems and training techniques.

A Visit to Canine Partners *Midge Walster*

On 24th August Sandra Fraser, Midge Walster and Keith and Carol Warwick met at Canine Partners Training facility in West Sussex. We were given a warm welcome from Becca and Wendy who took us into the main building for coffee and an informal chat about the work both Dog A.I.D. and Canine Partners do. We discussed the differences and the similarities of the two charities and found we were on very common ground.

However the obvious difference was the enviable venue Canine Partners operated from and we began a tour of the buildings. Becca made us aware of their early beginnings, working from a cold dim barn 6yrs previously, gradually getting the funding to build and improve the existing barns and sheds, turning them into the new purpose built training hall, admin block, kitchen/dining area and the latest addition 6 excellently designed rooms for clients accommodation.

I could go on infinitum about the committee/education room with its state of the art touch screen, the kitchen area with adjustable sink (at the press of a button the sink goes up and down for working at different heights) the admin block with a mixture of paid and voluntary staff (own dogs under desks) to do all the administrative work .



The training hall, which we could view from a gallery above, was in full use with around 15 dogs at any one time either laying quietly or being taken to the various areas where work situations had been set up eg washing machine, credit card dispenser, shelves with shopping items

The trainers were in wheelchairs in and around the extensive grounds practising lead walking, using doors, with tuggy's on, for the dogs to practice opening and closing doors and a lift to learn 'up switch' and to enter and exit safely.



We also visited the clean and spacious kennels where the dogs slept or were put when down time was needed.

At lunch time we were taken to a picnic area where the staff and management could relax with their lunch and inevitably talk about the days experiences.

I must just mention the volunteer gardener who keeps the grounds looking neat and welcoming with colourful pots around the grounds and in front of the client accommodation. Proof, if proof were needed that we rely heavily on people who give their time freely as volunteers.

We were impressed by the progress that CP have made in the last few years and while the procedure is different the aims are the same. We were very encouraged and excited about the future development of Dog AID.

Visit to Support Dogs *Deborah Coles*

Sandra Fraser, Angela Woodhouse and I enjoyed a day's visit at Support Dogs in Sheffield on Wednesday 15th July.

Rita Howson (Director of Operations) was our host for the day, and after a very warm welcome took us on a tour around the facilities within the building. She also gave us a general overview of the work that is carried out by the organization including further details regarding the Seizure Alert department in the absence of their trainer. She then arranged for us to meet with trainers from the Disability, Autism and Dog Supply Teams (together with their dogs) who explained more about the work within their departments. We were also treated to some practical demonstrations one of which was to teach the dog to move in front and block the clients way thus preventing them from stepping into the road. We later met with Angela Gregory, the Fundraising and Marketing Manager who was equally friendly and helpful.

We were provided with an excellent buffet lunch and during the afternoon met with some visiting clients and their dogs. Throughout the day we were made to feel most welcome and were encouraged to ask as many questions as we wished. Rita extended a very kind invitation to me to spend some time shadowing two of their trainers in the Disability Assistance Team and I am hoping to take up the offer in November.

Stoneleigh Country Fare and Paws and Music August 29th,30th,31st.

Dog A,I,D. was the receiver of some good publicity and money at this prestigious dog event.

Mo Aegerter with her dog Breeze won the 'My Dog's Got Talent' sponsored by the Royal Canin dog food company. It was a spur of the moment thing with nothing special prepared and none of her own music. She was asked 'fast, medium or slow ?' (music) - - - played safe with medium and in Mo's intrepid style entered the ring and 'went with the flow.' Breeze performed brilliantly and to their surprise and pleasure they were called back at the end of the day to be told they had achieved first place. Well done Mo and Breeze, what great ambassadors for Dog A.I.D.



It was good to chat to an old friend, Gus Dermody of One Man and His Dog fame, Gus demoed with his runner ducks and team of collies in the main ring but tells me he is cutting back on these demos next year to concentrate on the Sheepdog Trials which is his main interest'. Says Mo.

Surrounded!!! The aliens apologised - - - Darth Vader wasn't available for a photo call- -he was on a tea break!



Thankyou to the Paws and Music organisers for donating the entry money for the Fun Day competitions on Bank Holiday Monday. We appreciate your support and generosity.

Dog A.I.D. Workshop

Moulton College, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire 12th and 13th September



As soon as I received my first Dog A.I.D. Newsletter and found there was going to be a workshop, I jumped at the chance to be involved. My career goal is to become an Assistance Dog Trainer, I am always amazed by how much these dogs can make a difference to a humans' life with the dedication and love they give to their disabled owners.

Lucy taking a rest

The workshop was going to be a chance for me to get fully involved in training Assistance Dogs and I could not wait to get started. I arrived at Moulton College at 9.15am Saturday morning after driving down from Lincolnshire. I took my things to my room and then went to find everyone else. I didn't realise that I had actually arrived at the wrong gate. Luckily for me I bumped into Penny Laverick with "The Amos Team"- Michelle and Victoria, who rescued me from despair and explained the set up to me. We all got chatting and I soon relaxed.



Victoria with Amos.

I followed Penny and the team down to a different area of the college for the workshop, by this point I was very excited to meet everyone. When we got there we got a little shock....all the dogs seemed to have been replaced by small ponies..... Just joking, there was a Fallabella (American miniature Ponies) show going on in the stables next to the hall we were using. I think we all were tempted to "borrow" one of these very sweet animals!!

Once we arrived at the hall we went to get a hot drink and had a look at the stall that had been set up...I am dreadful at buying things when it comes to training and dogs!! After a short while everyone started to arrive for the workshop and the dogs were slowly brought into the hall one by one to be introduced to the environment. It was fascinating listening to Sandra and Jayne regarding calming signals, I was already beginning to learn loads and I had only been there half an hour. Once the dogs had been introduced one by one, they were brought out in twos, using barriers, which was a great way to get dogs used to being around each other without any intimidation or stress.



One dog Sandy got a little stressed when dogs were brought in but with the barriers, some yawning and calm handling she soon settled.

With everyone settled we got started on the day's activities. I stayed with level one working on lead walking. Ros and her Boxer puppy were used at first for a demonstration, however she was more interested in chewing the lead as she was a little stressed. It was a lot for the dogs to take in and they were all doing well and were so calm.

Sandy watching the proceedings.

Genie arrived later in the morning so as part of the lead training we took each dog outside one at a time to introduce her to them. A few barks later and everyone was quite happy in each others company. The dogs had a lot of distractions outside as there were ponies and people walking around which was brilliant to help their distraction work.



What do I do now? says Meggie

All the dogs seemed to do really well at dealing with all this. The weather was beautiful but a little uncomfortable for the dogs as it was beginning to get quite warm. At this point we broke for lunch. Lunch was a great opportunity to get chatting to everyone; I met Wolfie who is now a fully fledged Assistance Dog, and gosh does that dog have presence!! He is beautiful and the perfect example of what Dog A.I.D can do.

After lunch we all came together to work on particular tasks which owners wanted to work on. I worked with Jess, a border collie and her owner on pulling doors open. Unfortunately Jess was quite stressed and nervous in this environment so we took her outside and we encouraged her to pull her ball on a rope which she did very well.

At the end of the tasks it was time for the AGM. I was particularly interested in this as it gave me a lot more information about the charity and how I can help. I put a few ideas forward and it was a real positive meeting

Dinner time!! We were all ravenous by this point; the food was great and the company even better. It's great to sit and chat to people about different training techniques etc. After dinner a group of us went to Ouse Block and had an X factor Party!! What a great end to a great day.

The next day we all arrived refreshed and ready to go. I watched Level two with ignoring food items. All the dogs did so well. I then worked with Amber and her owner Carol on proofing her leave command. As usual Amber was great and refused each piece of food that was dropped or rolled along the floor (However I discovered my catching techniques need a bit of work!!)



After lunch we had a T-Touch demonstration with Jayne, I had been looking forward to this as I had not known much about it. Barney the beagle got a T-Touch massage, and then all the dogs had a go with walking through the ladder and around the star to make them more aware of where they were placing their feet. Most of the dogs seemed very relaxed with this and just took it in their stride.

Blake trying the ladder.

It was then time to say goodbye and leave the workshop to return to Lincoln. Everyone was very tired, especially the dogs as they had worked very hard during the weekend. I had an absolutely brilliant weekend. Very informative and it's lovely to have all the support around not only for the clients of Dog A.I.D. but also the trainers. Big thank you to everyone for making my first Dog A.I.D experience a great one!! I look forward to more. *By Sara Eldret*

Every Penny Counts !

We never miss an opportunity to make money for Dog AID!!

Our 'shop' selling Dog AID goods proved very popular at the Workshop. There were donated items as well as our expanding array of corporate goods including the new 2010 Calendar. One of the donated items was a beautiful cot quilt hand made by Annie Clayton of Paws&Music fame. Thankyou Annie!

Erica and Alan provided some delicious fudge of 10 different flavours. The sample plates were being 'sampled' constantly and was an excellent sales ploy because the fudge was all sold making £100 clear profit!! Many thanks and well done Erica and Alan.

A special thankyou to Carol for manning the shop—she was kept very busy.

Achievements

Level One Good Companion

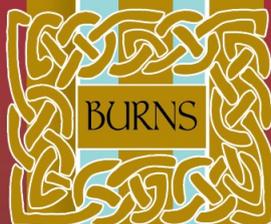
Bree Robbins and Pooch, Michelle Evans and Amos Margaret Hood and Lucy,

Assistance Dog Level, Final Certification

Mandy Ireland and Wolfie



Our grateful thanks to Burns for sponsoring this Newsletter. Also for supplying a welcome pack for the September Workshop and samples for some of our fund raising events.



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If you have a query regarding your dogs diet or would like samples, call Burns free on 0800 083 66 96 or e-mail info@burns-pet-nutrition.co.uk To find your nearest stockist or to shop on-line visit www.burns-pet-nutrition.co.uk

This will be the last time Burns will sponsor the Newsletter so if anyone has any connections or suggestions for sponsorship of future Newsletters please get in touch.

Meeting up with an old friend by Erica Bennett



On Friday 28th August, Alan and I were invited by Lyn Fleet (DogAID trainer and client) to travel to Liverpool to spend some time with the President of DogAID, Turid Rugaas of Norway.

Lyn and her friend and colleague Helen Roberts, (authors of The Fast Track 'Puppy Survival Kit' and also The Fast Track 'Dog Survival Kit', both of which are highly recommended), had invited Turid to do a weekend seminar at Dogs Trust in Huyton, Liverpool. The seminar was entitled 'Pulling on the Lead'; a topic which is often misunderstood both amongst pet owners and

trainers. Often we think we are teaching our dogs not to pull on lead, when in fact we are doing completely the opposite!

Leaving sunny weather behind us and big, black rain clouds ahead of us, we travelled north on the M6 from Cannock to Liverpool meeting up with Turid in her hotel. This was arranged as a complete surprise for her, as even though we have been friends since before the turn of the century, we had not met up for a couple of years.

Once we had surprised her, just as she was relaxing in the hotel lobby, Lyn and Helen arrived to whisk us off for some sight-seeing around Liverpool. We jumped into a taxi being driven by a man with a typical Liverpudlian sense of humour; he had us all in stitches for most of the short journey! No more traffic for us; we were dropped off at the Mersey ferry terminal as we were to see Liverpool from the river Mersey, onboard the 'Royal Daffodil'! It seems that some years ago Lyn had the experience of being able to steer the boat; both she and the boat are still here so we must assume that it all went to plan!

Turid always likes to take home some souvenirs for her family, and this trip was to be no exception! T-Shirts, wigs (!) and postcards were happily purchased, and then we all sat down to wait for the next ferry, with a very welcome cup of coffee.

Getting on board the 'Royal Daffodil', to the familiar strains of Gerry Marsden's 'Ferry Across the Mersey', we were told by Lyn that the inside, sheltered part of the boat was only for wimps; thank goodness we were all prepared with our waterproofs! The hour-long sightseeing trip, complete with commentary (peppered with Lyn's sense of humour), took us north up the river towards New Brighton from Pier Head, then on to Seacombe and Woodside on the Wirral, before returning back to Pier Head. It was 'very fresh' on board the boat but thankfully it remained dry during our tour; we just had rather wet bottoms from the seats as it had poured down with rain earlier.

Turid requested more shopping time in the souvenir shop before we headed towards Albert Dock and our lunch. The Pump House was our chosen venue, or to be more correct was the first place we came to! Seats and a table were quickly found and lunch ordered; we were all in need of sustenance by now! Over lunch we all had the opportunity to relax and catch up on the news, what wonderful company we were in; never has time passed so quickly!

Alan and I had to return back to the hotel to collect our car (and doggie!) to drive back home as we had other commitments later in the day. Turid also wanted to get back to the hotel to rest and plan her talk for the weekend, so all 5 of us got back into a taxi; the driver was sadly not so much fun as the earlier one. He was more interested in making sure we all knew just how many branches of Tesco there were in a one mile radius. Still you cannot have too much knowledge can you? (Apparently there are 8.....)

Photographs were taken before we all set off for our various destinations; Alan and I have not had such a great day out for a long time, especially with such wonderful company and the best hosts imaginable.

Sincere thanks, from Alan, Erica and Turid, for the time and trouble taken by both Lyn and Helen to make the time which we spent together so enjoyable. Turid has since written to say what an enjoyable time she had, and she hopes to be able to support a DogAID event before too long.



Fund Raising and Events



The Guide Dogs Gala Day as mentioned in the Chairpersons Report. Thanks again to all those that attended.

RSPCA Fun Day Leybourne Kent 13th June

Alison Tompsett with her dog Millie and husband Dereck did a grand job encouraging people to come to the Dog A.I.D. stand where we held a tombola and had some items for sale. We raised £90.



Garden Party Meopham Kent 30th August



For the 3rd year running Carol and Steve Beaman opened their garden and invited friends, family and neighbours. The day was sunny and warm and much fun was had trying to win the items on the fun Tombola. They raised a whopping £290. Many thanks to you both.

United Kingdom of Registered Canine Behaviourists Seminar 27th September

This prestigious event was attended by Sandra Fraser, Angela Woodhouse, Lyn Fleet, Erica and Alan Bennett. They displayed a variety of Dog AID goods including the 2010 Calendar. Much interest was shown and questions asked about Dog AID's function. The main object was to recruit trainers and as a result several applications have been sent out.

Dog A.I.D. Red and Gold Walk. Crystal Palace Park Sunday 27th Sept

It was a beautiful sunny day with the sun shining through the trees and conkers falling all around us. People were very generous and stopped to ask questions and look at the board with photo's of working dogs. We raised over £200. Thankyou to Ranger Phil West for organising it and all those who contributed.

Forthcoming fundraising events.

P.D.S.A. Dog Show October 4th Bromley Kent

We have been invited to have a stand at the PDSA show. This was offered to us during our time at Crystal Palace Park walk. One thing leads to another and every penny counts.

Dog A.I.D. South East will be doing a Boot Sale, a Christmas Walk finishing with tea and mince pies, and a stall selling DA goods. A raffle at Hextable Dog Club Christmas Parties

Variety Show Cannock November 14th

The Variety Show arrangements are in full swing and 13 acts have been booked. Just a reminder, the raffle draw will take place during the evening so stubs and unsold tickets need to be sent to Erica by 1st November

Cannock also plans a jumble/toy sale.

Raffle Tickets

We hope you will support us by selling the raffle tickets enclosed. The draw will take place at the Avon Business Centre on 14th November during the Variety Show. Stubs and unsold tickets to be returned **1st November**

Have you had your Autumn Red&Gold walk yet. Don't forget to send in some photos for the next Newsletter.

Fun Dog Show in the Forest. *Niki Smith*



Sunday 13th September started early, everything that was needed and not of any value had been packed into the car the previous night. The day had been on my mind for a few months and my nerves were run ragged with anticipation and excitement.

All the stock had been checked and double checked umpteen times and was packed into the car along with Holly and Dillon and finally me and Mark.

We had arranged to meet Tricia at Speech House to collect the tent and Hannah, a friend of mine was giving up her day off to help us. Eventually everything was set up, dogs in their crate and the Dog AID banner fixed to the front. Within minutes people started to drop things off to sell, all doggie paraphernalia.

The haze in the sky had lifted and it was now hot. Tricia and The Wye Valley Dog Club were having a charity agility competition, Holly's flyball club, Bone Zone, were running a 'have a go' agility and have a go flyball, all to raise money. The day was shared with the Forest of Dean Carriage Driving Club who were raising money for Riding for the Disabled.

There was a mixture of people and dogs at the show ranging from the serious agility ones to families with their dog and those who do agility and flyball but all light hearted and fun.

Plenty of poo bags were handed out to people who bought anything or donated or even just talked to us. It was lovely to answer question and show them pictures and let the dogs say hello. I think it helped that there were real dogs on the stall so people could associate the pictures with the real thing. Early afternoon two women and a gorgeous German Shepherd x Doberman came up to the stall. They introduced themselves as Diana, Anny and Elsa. Diana is a prospective client and lived not far away. It was lovely to meet her and her charming dog.

Mark took a short walk with Dillon into the forest, five minutes break for them both, oh, and so Dillon could relieve himself, he performed on cue! It started to get quiet around the stall so I took Holly to have a go at the flyball, as soon as she saw the box Holly started barking excitedly and dancing around, this is something that she really enjoys (and happens to be good at, even if I say so myself!).

I am on a stick more or less permanently now and am still practicing my balance etc. Luckily we took our chairs with us and it was a great relief. At times I nearly forgot myself and leaned back as if to sunbathe!

All in all it was a successful day, meeting people and talking about an organisation that I am proud to be part of. In the next few days after the show the money was counted up and the total was £77.24 from Bone Zone, £89.76 on the stall and over £500 from The Wye Valley Dog Training Club. Everyone worked really hard. We are now considering a 'paws in the park' or 'dogs day out' type of show for next year.

Everyclick lets you search the web and raise money for your favourite charity for FREE.

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- Half of the advertising revenue from Everyclick Search goes to charities chosen by its users

Caroline has added [Raise money for Dog AID with Everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com/dogaid) - <http://www.everyclick.com/dogaid> to her signature so that it goes out with every e-mail—what a good idea!

Surviving Dillon.

by Niki Smith



I'd like to introduce you to Dillon. At the time of writing this, (July 25th) he is 20 wks old and every much the male version of 'a right little madam'!

The only thing that I know of his short past is that he arrived with us when he was approx 12wks old and he is from Ireland. He was a rescue. I am lucky enough to be a foster parent (along with Mark) for these lovely dogs so when I decided to look for a successor to Holly it just had to be one of those.

I put some 'feelers' out and after several fosters, who went on to lovely homes, I was told of a yellow pup coming over from Ireland who fitted the criteria that

I was looking for. As we had a dog we were fostering at the time who was being homed that week, Dillon went to puppy parents.

Dillon was the most laid back pup I had ever met, he marched straight into our house and introduced himself to Holly. He then made his mark in the garden and laid down and went to sleep, with one eye open just in case he would miss anything!

That was the beginning and since then our curtains have been permanently tied up until recently, crates brought back down (he was crate trained and was dry all night when he came), my dressing gown has now got more holes than a sieve and for the first time I have bought 'puppy books'--- Perfect Puppy-Gwen Bailey, My Dog Pulls- Turid Rugaas.

Dillon had a lot of trouble when his teething started. If he was a child he would have had bright red cheeks. We always have many dog toys because of the fosters but we went puppy toy shopping,- Kongs, chew toys, teething toys that can be put in the freezer to sooth the mouth, and another Kong for good measure!!

Out of all the 'special' puppy toys Dillon preferred to carry around a battered frizzbee that had been free from a dog show.

At times, because of my pains I felt like giving up (Dillon's puppy parents would have him back at the drop of a hat), but because of all the rescue Labradors that have passed through I kept telling myself that labs' make terrible pups but wonderful adults. All I've got to do is bear with it all and a handsome sensible young male will come out the other side (sort of like the ugly ducking).

As I said, Dillon (nickname 'bucket' because of the mouthful of water he forgets to drink and drizzles all over the floor, or someone's lap!) is now 20wks and looking back over the last 10 days the curtains have stayed down and the creases have dropped out, I have put my holey dressing gown aside and started wearing my long one (with no dog hanging on it) and my Perfect Puppy book had its cover chewed off in the first few days (sorry Gwen).

Dillon had his health check for Dog AID and did well, maybe a bit wriggly but he found it all fun. I walk Dillon in a Mekuti balance harness, it is much more comfortable for him and me. He races to get to the washing machine to empty it before Holly. We go to a puppy class, Dillon is doing really well. I have also dug out all the training information from DA that I had when training with Holly. The thing that brought a tear to my eye was the day she joined in playing tag with him, Holly has never been the kind of dog to play like that, it was lovely to see.

We are on a high at the moment though I'm ready for lows. It is an adventure that I am looking forward to and scared of all at the same time but I'm sure we will come out the other end.



Dog A.I.D. Goods for Sale



2010 Calendar

The calendar pictures are photos of dogs working within Dog A.I.D.
Will it make a Christmas gift for a special friend of yours??



Car Stickers

Wording is Dog A.I.D. 'Supporter' £2 each plus pp.

Dog A.I.D. Bags

Bag shown by Wolfie on the front cover is a new item for sale in support of Dog AID.
It could be used as a lunch bag, a gift bag or as Wolfie uses it,, his treat bag.

Filled with some favourite goodies for a special friend, dog or human, it would make a lovely Christmas gift.
£4-50 each plus pp.

Cosy Clickers

The button clickers have been turned into 'Cosy Clickers' with a soft fleece and elastic cover that can be worn on the hand, wrist or put onto a wheelchair arm. The advantage is that you can click and treat with one hand. Cost £4-50 plus pp.



Iron On Logos

Iron on Dog A.I.D. logos to put on a T-Shirt or Sweat shirt. £2-80 plus pp.

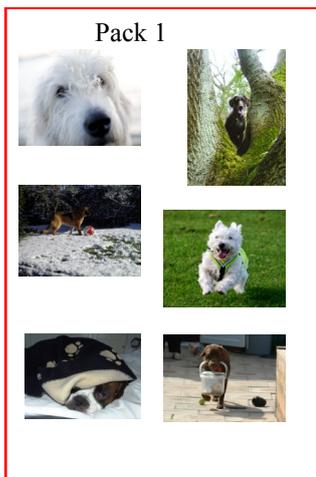
Dog A.I.D. Bandannas

Plain red with black Dog A.I.D. logo. £4-50 plus pp

Greetings Cards

All occasions blank greetings cards. Pictures taken from 2009 and 2010 calendars. 4 packs of 6 as shown below. £3 per pack plus pp.

See enclosed order form.



Website Web Shop

We now have a **Web Shop**. This is a collection of online retailers that give us a commission on most items purchased. We get on average £2 for every transaction. There are over 80 shops including many high street names. The money comes from the shop so it does not cost you anything more than from their website - its just that we get a donation Christmas is coming so if you are purchasing gifts look at our **Web Shop** first in order to help us make some money for Dog A.I.D.

Introduction to the Fundraising Team

Over the last year the DogAID Executive Committee has been working hard behind the scenes to continue developing the management structure and recruiting more trainers. In particular, a lot of work has gone in to gain full accreditation as an affiliated member to Assistance Dogs (UK). This has taken DogAID a step closer to national recognition in support of its mission, but it has stretched both human and financial resources. A lot of this work would not have been possible without the ongoing support by way of donations and the excellent work of the S.E. Fundraising Team organised by Midge Walster. To assist the Executive Committee with growing the revenue source and share some of the management workload a Fundraising Committee has now been set up. The committee will be responsible for supporting and expanding the regional fundraising teams as they are setup; developing marketing aids and products with the DogAID logo and organising charitable events. The committee will also be working with the Executive Committee to develop the business case and fundraising strategy. This will enable DogAID to be more favourably placed when making applications to gain more serious funding.

So welcome to some of the Fundraising Committee and Team members and a brief introduction from themselves:-

David Marter – Chairman:



Having spent 30 years working for BT in product development I took early retirement in 2000 and went on to running a Post Office for 6 years before I finally retired.

I had spent many years in 'traditional' dog training, as a part time interest, assisting with pet dog training classes. I wanted to further my knowledge and approach to dog training methods and 9 years ago I had the opportunity to attend the first, 2 year, International Dog Training School course run by Sheila Harper and the Scallywags team (as it was then called) There I first met Turid

Rugaas, our president, Dolores the founder of DogAID and Erica who is now also on the committee. This two years turned my life around in terms of my relationship, understanding and communication with dogs, and, my development as a trainer. This led to me becoming a full member of the Pet Dog Trainers of Europe (PDTE) and serving on their Board as treasurer for several years. I now run my own Pet Dog Training classes and provide some 1:1 training and behaviour consultation work particularly in the area of dog stress.

Three years ago I volunteered to be a trainer for DogAID, as there was no one to cover S.E. Anglia, and have worked with several clients over this period. Since I now have a little more time I wanted to be more involved with DogAID and its work and I was duly elected to be chairman of the newly formed Fundraising Committee where I hope I can bring some of my other skills to help benefit the charity.

Erica Bennett: - Secretary

Alan Bennett:



I am Erica the Secretary to the Fundraising Committee for Dog AID. I have known about DogAid for many years now, but have never had the time to be able to offer my voluntary support until now, albeit limited.

I have had a disability since 1995, although do not have need for any assistance from my dog, as yet anyway. My husband Alan (also on the Committee) is my carer and is a good substitute for now!!

I have a great deal of experience in dog training and behaviour, having being associated with Sheila Harper for several years, attending many educational courses throughout the time.

My disability has never stopped me from learning, which I consider to be an important factor in not slipping back into the doldrums through illness. I am a Reiki master and have experience in Flower Essences and Homeopathy amongst other natural non-invasive therapies. Each and every one of these has been used to help both owners and their companion animals, saving more than one from euthanasia.

Alan suffered a major stroke in 2003, and has over time made quite a recovery. As I am sure you all know conventional medicine can offer little to cope with stroke disease other than physio (where suitable), and aspirin to reduce the risk of further strokes occurring. Reiki and flower essences have been of great benefit to him, allowing him to leave hospital in 2 weeks rather than the minimum of 3 months which they predicted it would be.

Over the years both Alan and I have supported other dog-related organisations, and are now happy to bring our variety of skills to DogAID, in order to support and develop the charity. We hope to meet many of you in the forthcoming months!

Helen Tindill:



For the past few years my time has been filled being married to Shaun and being a full time Mum, taking care of my young family. From the age of 6, I was encouraged by my family to learn to play the organ and other musical instruments which I pursued until the age of 16 when boyfriends and steam rallies (yes steam rallies) took priority!

After leaving education with 11 GCSE's, I enrolled on a Performing Arts diploma course at my local college and it was here that my love of all things musical/theatrical continued to grow. Unfortunately due to lack of interest, the course was axed and I had to find something else to keep me occupied. So after lots of thought and deliberation, I then joined a teaching diploma course which didn't get axed.... and I now have my City and Guilds Diploma for teaching adults in basic skills and employment coaching. I worked for a private employment coaching company until my second son was born in 2008.

Over the past 5 years I have been very involved with another well known charity, organising lots of events including wedding dress nights at my local working men's club, car washes, variety shows, and vintage vehicle shows to name a few. So far I have managed to raise over £10000 for the charity and until now I had never found another charity which was close to my heart. However when Erica and Alan Bennett approached me about fundraising for Dog A.I.D. I thought it was something different and something I could really enjoy and get my teeth into.

I am registered disabled however I try not to let my disabilities affect me too badly. As anyone with a disability will tell you, we all have good days and bad days. I have to say I'm very thankful that I do have more good days than bad. But when I have a bad day it can really make me feel very poorly.

I hope that my life experiences will enable me to be an active and useful member of your team and help to raise lots of money for your charity.

So if you would like to help support the fundraising team, in what ever capacity, perhaps start up a regional team of your own, or have some ideas you would like help with to put into practise then please contact Dave Marter (email k9.david.marter@gmail.com or phone 01394 272923).

‘Every little helps’

Client Sue Line and her sister/carer Chris Titley are also members of the Fund Raising Committee and will be profiled in the next Newsletter.

On Cloud 9! *By Mandy Ireland*



On cloud 9! Its wonderful ,it has given me so much more freedom. With Wolfie by my side the worlds my oyster. I can go shopping on my own, I no longer need someone with me just in case I have an asthma attack as I know he'll alert me and give me sufficient warning to take action, so I can go places where you can't take pet dogs on my own, now that Wolfie is qualified,

I even got a taxi into town to attend my friend's hen night, something I would previously not have dared to do but with Wolfie by my side I know I'm both safe

in that he'll alert me to my asthma and also I feel safer getting in a taxi alone at night.

I'm contemplating taking a trip to London with just me and Wolfie to sight see and meet up with a couple of friends that I worked with for a catch up in the evening, I've been a few times with friends but on my own I can see what I want to see and take time doing it at my pace rather than feel we're rushing from pillar to post, hoping to stay at guide Head Quarters as it is very central and plenty of support about. . Mums not keen, she thinks London's scary but I love London, so much to see and lovely parks for Wolfie to take time out. We have been accepted everywhere we go, our local supermarket cafe always bring him a bowl of water out when we go in for a coffee bless them.

Wolfie has been fantastic he is even getting things off the shelf and putting them into the trolley now and if I use a basket I put it on floor at the tills and he passes the items up to me to put on conveyer belt, much easier than trying to balance the basket on my knee whilst I take things out. Previously i've taken things out the basket and its unbalanced and fallen to the floor.

We've been to the big Indian restaurant just outside Peterborough, I was a bit sceptical as to how they would accept Wolfie, and as it was a spur of the moment , (bumped into some friends I'd not seen for a while so we decided to go for lunch) I didn't have time to ring or let them know so I left Wolfie in car and took a buddy card in with me to help explain. They read the card, asked a bit about him then welcomed him in even though a few of the staff were terrified of dogs. Wolfie of course behaved brilliantly. It was a buffet type restaurant and they were astonished that a dog could walk my side whilst I filled my plate and not as much glance at all the food on offer, (I could have put him under the table then got my food, but felt on this occasion seeing him do as trained would probably help show them how well trained an assistance dog is and what it is capable of. This seemed to work as the staff showed a real interest and asked more questions about the role of assistance dogs. It meant we kept getting interrupted but I didn't mind as by the time we left it meant they were much better informed and much more aware of the need for assistance dogs to be accepted. Must have worked as when we left most of the staff said goodbye to us and the manager said your welcome anytime hope to see you again very soon, it's been a pleasure having you both (in broken English) The food was brilliant but the acceptance and willingness to learn was even better as even the staff scared of dogs were admiring Wolfie by the end, so should help any others that go for a meal there with assistance, hearing or guide dogs in the future.

Having Wolfie qualified is so much easier when I go to the gym (Wolfie had been allowed to accompany me to the gym (they are helping me to prevent and reverse the effects of 12 yrs of self propelling my chair. I've had problems with over extension of some muscle groups and shortening of others, plus problems with fingers and wrists from gripping the wheels) I go 3 times a week and Wolfie had been allowed to come to alert in case of my asthma, but then if I wanted to do my food shop or nip into town afterwards I'd have to drive 6 miles home to drop Wolfie off then all the way back again having picked up a friend or mum to come with me. But now i can go to the gym and pop into Sainsburys across the road on my way home, saving time and petrol plus less effort for me. So much easier!.

A big thankyou for passing Wolfie and helping to give me my independence and life back.

Mandy

A few weeks later Mandy sent an e-mail to tell us another little story. See facing page.

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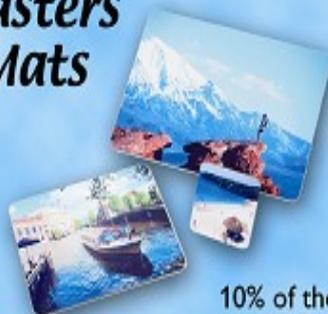
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Don't forget your raffle tickets!!!

Wolfie and the Wheelchair



Wolfie putting the recycling away.

Wolfie was great today, we were going through town and it was beginning to rain so we were hurrying, when suddenly Wolfie stopped dead and refused to move. I felt fine so was sure it wasn't my asthma, plus he wasn't behaving in the same way as he does when it's my asthma. It was like he was telling me not to move. I tried to encourage him to walk on but he just sat still, refusing to budge. By now two or three people had gathered watching him, I started to talk to them to hide my embarrassment at not doing as he was told. I said I don't know what he's telling me but he's never done this before. A chap then said, 'Is it something with your chair?' I replied, 'I don't think so it seems to be working ok' when he suddenly noticed a rear wheel was almost off, the nut must have come loose and fallen off and the wheel had worked loose. They found the nut just back up the street about where Wolfie started to try to make me stop. Bless him! He must have realised that it was something we'd "dropped" I was very proud of him, the chap tightened it as much as he could and we went steadily back to catch the bus home in case it came off again.

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: Senior Trainer & Trainer Co-ordinator.

01743 891314

E-mail clanfraser33@hotmail.com

Client Application Pack.

Midge Walster 01322 667058

E-mail midgenal@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Caroline Lewis

E-mail CoolAlto@aol.com

Dog A.I.D. Office.

43 Sir Alfreds Way, Sutton Coldfield,
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01212 408372

Angela Woodhouse

E-mail aw012h4554@blueyonder.co.uk

Lyn Fleet

Forum Moderator 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.

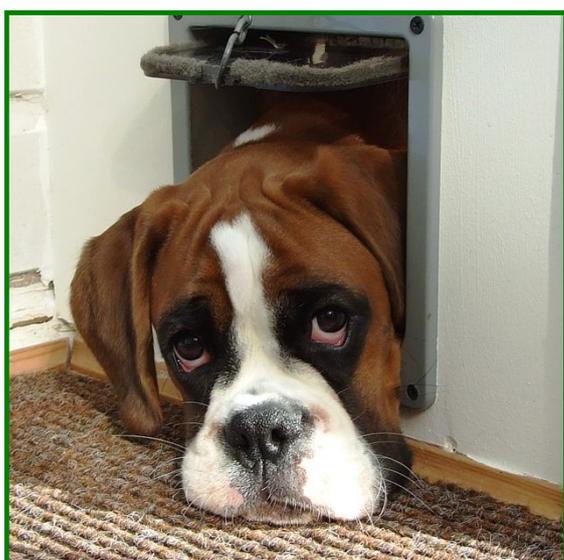
4 To ensure the dog is well socialised in relation to the environment it is to live and work in.

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 Girl Meggie



My Mum plays this game with me. She hides my toys and I have to look everywhere, even in the cats room!!

**Ahhh—found them!!
Clever me !!**



Now who would think she would hide them in the washing machine! Has she an ulterior motive???

Ros Fisher's puppy at 6 mths.