



<u>Level 3</u> Final Certificate

Christine Evans & Beau Elizabeth Tittershall & Dai Geneve Muckell & Poppie Heather Aspinall & Avril Jenny Butler & Ollie Sarah Woolrich & Cwtch Yvonne Coleclough & Bonnie



Celebrating the success of our clients, dogs & trainers



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<u>Level 1</u>

<u>Good Companion</u> Amy Ríocreux & Connie Ann Slíde & Tílly Catherine Gaskin & Charlie Cathy Smith & Pip Christine Evans & Jake Christopher Truslove & Lady Colin Whitt & Phoebe Daniel McNicholas & Harvey Danielle Prior & Buddy Elízabeth Orme & Sunny Gareth Foulkes & Ike Jas O'Neíll Stone & Max-Reggie Karen Rívers & Bozley Karen Smíth & Teddy Bear Kate Ring-Holmes & Elsa Kathryn Holmes & Sammy Leah Walters & Albert Lísa Chapman & Kobí Patrícía Hoad & Teddy Paul Horbury & Alice Paul Stewart & Bohdí Ray Dunn & Tundra Ruth Spurr & Willow Sarah Rídley & Tux

<u>Level Z</u>

<u>Advanced Good Companion</u> Christine Evans & Beau Gareth Foulkes & Ike Jeannette O' Callaghan & Beinn Jenny Butler & Ollie Jocelyn Banford & Shiloh Kate Ring-Holmes & Elsa Kathryn Holmes & Sammy Liz Cutler & Tilly Patricia Hoad & Teddy Phillip Hughes & Red Yvonne Coleclough & Bonnie





Spring forward! It is already April as I write this and I am wondering where the first part of the year has gone!

So much has already happened this year and still so much to come.

Crufts was a busy and enjoyable time and I thank each and every one of the clients and trainers who were able to attend and promote our great work. Each year we change things that we hope improves our image. This year we had some wonderful photos that show our diversity in the clients that we help.

Our workshop in April was sponsored by the Masonic Charitable Trust, such a generous donation of \pounds 5,000, we thank them very much.

Also thanks to Roger Jefcoate CBE DL, our Patron, we had very interesting visitors attend the workshop where they enjoyed lunch and conversations with clients. Who knows where this might lead!

Our numbers grow, more clients are being taken on and more trainers recruited. All the admin work is being done by Sam who seems to have settled in very well, as has Charlie, who some of you met at the workshop. Charlie will be increasing her role by matching and organising assessments in the near future. Ann is working hard on all the events that you wonderful people are organising. Kate has her head firmly down and working on the anniversary

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celebration on 25th April and GDPR, both to be mentioned next.

Twenty fifth anniversary 'celebrations'. To celebrate we wanted to raise our profile with

ED'S NOTE ...

Welcome to the Spring 2018 issue.

Crufts was a great success again this year, all our dogs did us proud, take a look at some great photos from the four days. We continue to have some great FUNdraising stories which we are very grateful for. You can also catch up on news and photos from the Spring workshops, plus how clients Burnie & Ed overcame discrimination. If there is anything you think could be included in our next newsletter, please get in touch, until next time



Lynn Stacey



invited people who may be able to influence our future in **Dog A.I.** one way or another to join myself and trustees at RAF Shawbury for tea in the officer's mess! We could only do this because Sam has 'someone on the inside'. Her husband is currently stationed there. We hope that by meeting local business people and councillors we will begin to be known to them and gain support in some way.

GDPR. What is this? General Data Protection Regulation.

more people locally. We have

'Under the terms of GDPR, not only will organisations have to ensure that personal data is gathered legally and under strict conditions, but those who collect and manage it will be obliged to protect it from misuse and exploitation, as well as to respect the rights of data owners - or face penalties for not doing so.'

To make us compliant, Kate has been working on all that we need to be doing, hence the additional forms and boxes that are needing to be completed and returned to the office, in this newsletter. If they are not returned then we will no longer be able to contact you, send you a newsletter or give you updates on the charity. Please make sure you do your bit!

Burnie Clutton has given us a detailed story of her ordeal when she was confronted by an access refusal and what she did about it. Burnie was very brave in what she did and I hope you will all benefit from the outcome.

The AGM looms on the horizon, do put the date in your diary and attend if possible, it is a great way to meet other clients and feel part of the charity. We will have Lesley Smith (Tigs) giving us some interesting information about how to use herbs and oils to help our dogs.

Our move to become a CIO continues at a good pace and should be completed by the AGM. And look out for our revamped website, it's on it way! Bye for now

Sandra Fraser



The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR for short), is replacing the Data Protection Act in May, with greater emphasis on your personal privacy and the onus being put on the 'rights of the individual'.

How it affects you

From 25th May 2018, Dog A.I.D. will not be able to contact you by email with regards to volunteering, events, newsletters, fundraising, new charity information etc., unless you 'opt in'. 'Opt in' tells us you trust Dog A.I.D. to look after your personal data and to use it only when necessary for our charitable purposes, in line with our Privacy Policy. We will always try to ensure that we only contact you about things that we think you will be interested in. You can 'Opt in' via email, phone or just tick the 'Opt In' box on the membership form every time that you renew. We will keep a record of your Opt In, and contact you prior to your consent elapsing.

The nub and gist; From 25th May, charities (along with companies and other organisations), need to use personal data that they collect only for the purposes that they were given consent to use it for -unless they have a 'lawful basis' to do so e.g. legitimate interest, protect a life, legal obligation etc. The consent needs to be regularly updated so we will ask you each year to tell us whether you would like to continue to receive updates from Dog A.I.D. We never share or sell your information to other organisation.

Remember, it is your choice to Opt In (or Out) at any time but do be aware that we will not be able to contact you by email after 25th May with regards to the above, if you have not 'Opted In'.



July 29th Avon Business & Leisure Centre Cannock. Avon Road, Cannock. WS11 1LH

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10.30 ~ Welcome & Coffee

hereby give

notice of

11.00 ~ Lesley Smith 'If my dog could talk' - Herbal Choices methodology (Applied Zoopharmacognosy) 12.00 - 1pm ~ Lunch

og Assistance in Disabi

All dietary requirements will be catered for.

1pm ~ AGM

If any client or trainer has anything they wish to bring up at the AGM under 'Any Other Business' it would be helpful if you could send in an outline or subject to be discussed so that we can allot a time to this in order to run to time as far as we can.

2.00 ~ Resume for practical session with Lesley working with dogs

3.15 ~ Tea and feedback

Anyone wishing to use the hall for the evening for a social event should contact Avon Business and leisure on 01543 468507 for availability and cost.

All Welcome

the AGM is for all clients, qualified and in training, trainers and supporters.

Autumn Workshop

for Clients & Trainers

8th & 9th September 2018 Stoke Mandeville Stadium

Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 9PP

Moving on! SATURDAY

Meeting, greeting and settling. Stays with distractions/self-control. Distance control/stopping at a distance. Food Refusal.

The day will be divided into 4 sessions around comfort breaks and lunch giving each client the opportunity to try or improve each behaviour.

SUNDAY

A chance to put all that you have learned into practice through a course constructed by the tutors.

There will be the opportunity for 1.2.1 support on any particular task or skill which individuals feel they need help with.

The weekend is for clients & trainers. The venue has 50 fully accessible hotel rooms, Dog A.I.D. will subsidise 1 night bed & breakfast, all other requirements to be covered by the client.

All enquiries to general_admin@dogaid.org.uk Please DO NOT contact Stoke Mandeville Stadium direct **Trainers' Workshop**

6th & 7th October 2018

Stoke Mandeville Stadium Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 9PP

For new and existing trainers and their own dogs, limited places for those bringing dogs. Trainers without dogs are also welcome.

SATURDAY

Preparing your client for each assessment In their shoes - Practical session with dogs & props Assessment process - When is the team ready? A closer look at task work - Practical session. SUNDAY

Level 2, the hardest assessment!

A look at what makes this difficult for teams and trainers. **Could you become an assessor?** What is required?

Book now so you do not miss this event

So that you can try to fulfil your commitment with Dog A.I.D. to attend at least one workshop over a two year period, the charity are now in a position to subsidise the accommodation, breakfast and lunch and as a gesture of goodwill we also offer travelling at 20p per mile to go towards fuel.

All enquiries to general_admin@dogaid.org.uk Please DO NOT contact Stoke Mandeville Stadium direct











Masonic

Charitable Foundation

News from the Clients' & Trainers' Spring Workshop

Myself and Barney arrived on the Friday afternoon and checked into our room. I was full of trepidation as it is not easy starting the training journey again and meeting new clients. Many of the trainers I already knew so this was easier for me.

The weekend officially started on Saturday morning when we were split into 3 small groups to learn different skills on a round robin basis.

The first session was with Sandra where we learnt how to keep our dogs' attention off lead and walking with you. Barney was used as a demonstration dog and he was a star!! Trotting along beside Sandra as though he had done it for ever. (I am certain the food element helped!)

Next, we moved on to work on basic sit, down and stands it was good to learn from other trainers and clients how to work on this section because although we could do it Barney tended to react in his time, somewhat of a terrier trait.

We then went to see Peta who worked with us on stays again reward-based learning which was quickly picked up by all dogs.

Barney stayed in my car over lunchtime to give him some quiet down time to rest away from all distractions. We forget how tired our trainee dogs can get at training sessions as they are continually learning so it is good to let them settle quietly for a while.

After lunch we returned to Peta for the start of skillsbased learning, something which Barney and I hadn't really worked on formally although he loves tugging and picking up items. When he learnt to tug open a cupboard door in around 5 minutes I was so proud of him I nearly cried. (Anyone who knew my Heidi would understand this as she did not enjoy holding items for long).



Sunday came around all to quickly, when we returned to the training room to find it set up to practise all the skills learnt the day before. We took it in turns to go around the various sections. Sit and stay then a recall. Pick up an item from the floor or from a container.

We then walked up a section avoiding distractions such as sausages in a bag to the washing machine. again, with help he tugged open the door then went behind to investigate the rear of the machine. Then on to the cupboard door which he tugged open very happily then to finish he tried to press the 'This is easy' button.

Bearing in mind he is just 10 months old , hasn't had a formal Dog A.I.D. training session as yet and had never been in a room with so many dogs he did so well with this game.

If any new client wonders whether or not to attend a weekend, I would really recommend them. You learn so much from the trainers, you get to meet other teams who are learning so you can chat with them, support each other and perhaps pick up advice on how to tackle some scenarios which you hadn't thought about before. The dogs get to see other Assistance Dogs in Training which can only be good for all concerned. So now onwards and upwards I hope for all the teams who attended.

Thank you to Sandra, Peta and all the team who made the weekend so enjoyable for us also a special thank you to the Masonic Charitable Foundation who so kindly sponsored the weekend

Margaret and Barney



a's-trix and Peta Dogs Woodbine Cottage, East Kirkby present (\circ) G A fun day of Trick Training with your best friend, learn smart dog tricks using kind, positive, reward based & force free training. Sunday 20th May 2018 East Kirkby, Spilsby Dog & handler spaces £40 pectators without dogs welcome £15 Lincolnshire, PE23 4DB What's included? ... Instructional handouts, FREE clicker, ongoing support, refreshments and cake \sim bring pack lunch N TEACH OLD DOGS ZSZ ~ Certified Trick Dog Instructor ~ Group activities fundraising for ~ FREE Clicker for you to keep ~ Trick demonstration ~ Instructional handouts ~ Clicker training ~ Ongoing online support ~ Suitable for dogs any age ~ No experience needed ~ All levels of experience all proceeds go to Dog A.I.D. Email .. bellas-trix-club@hotmail.com or info@peta4dogs.co.uk Tel or text 07812493842 / 07986683876 Registration form will be emailed/sent along with a list of what to bring to the workshop. Dogs must be sociable with people and other dogs to attend. Join us on a DOG TRICK WORKSHOP, a

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Join us on a DOG TRICK WORKSHOP, a collaboration with Bella's-Trix Club and Peta4Dogs, on 20th May 2018 in East Kirkby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, PE23 4DB. A fun day of learning with your best friend,

using kind, positive, reward based training. For more info contact Lynn or Peta on details above.

DONATE YOUR OLD OR FOREIGN COINS & BANKNOTES

Donate your old/foreign coins and banknotes, you can either pass them on to the Dog A.I.D. office or if weight allows you can post to;

1 Cherry Tree Ave, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3PL

- ✓ All foreign coins and banknotes
 ✓ Any old British & Irish money
- ✓ Current UK coins and banknotes
- ✓ Even obsolete currency!

Currency services supplied by Wcash4coins

Well Jone Yvonne & Bonnie

Yvonne and Bonnie attended Maurice's puppy classes 5 years ago. They were very enthusiastic from the start and Bonnie would respond nicely to given commands.

In the time that followed, Yvonne knew Bonnie could be more than just a pet, so took to the internet to find a dog charity which could help. Dog A.I.D. was the obvious choice but they did not have a local trainer; Maurice

was thrilled to be asked by Yvonne to help. Dog A.I.D. contacted Maurice and asked him to provide videos of his dog training ability; they gave their approval and he became Yvonne and Bonnie's trainer. As the team were totally committed, Maurice says it made his part easy. After working tirelessly through the elements of Level 1 & 2, Yvonne was very keen to start on Level 3 immediately. They were put through their paces and achieved it in just under three months. Bonnie is now a fully qualified Assistance Dog, helping around the home and can accompany Yvonne everywhere she goes.

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Maurice would like to congratulate Yvonne and Bonnie for all they have accomplished over the past twelve months.



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R.I.P. HEIDI

Heidi came into my life a rescue puppy a sad little scrap of a 6month-old puppy scared of her own shadow, not fed properly, not given much to drink and never taken out or played with. She was terrified of the car so much so that she hid under the seats all the way home. Hence me renaming her Heidi.



As time went on she came out of her shell and over the next few years she learnt to be a dog, to play, and to love. But she never got over her greediness for food.! It was innate in her that she had to eat if food was there no matter if she needed it, so I needed to be very firm about treats, rewards and the amount she ate daily.



Over time my health declined, and it became clear that I would need support if I wanted to live a life. About this time, I learnt of the work an Assistance Dog could do and the seed was sown to get Heidi on the road to be an Assistance Dog.

It took quite a while before we were accepted on the scheme and took guite a long time for her to get through her level one! Westies are intelligent but very independent souls, so they learn what to do then decide how they (if they do) carry out an activity!! Our first training weekend was very nearly a disaster or, so I thought. We arrived at Stoke Mandeville, I was stressed as I didn't know anybody, had never been to the area and I guess Heidi picked up on the stress. Whilst walking her round the grounds I accidentally dropped my crutch and it hit her, she was terrified, slipped her collar and bolted.... Straight into the arms of our CEO Sandra.... Well I thought that is it... kicked out due to an unruly untrained dog before we have even got beyond the starting post, but no, she helped put Heidi back into her collar and nothing more was said on the subject. But at one session Eryl suggested tying the lead round my waist so I couldn't drop the lead again.

Heidi started coming out of her shell developing in confidence at the same time which was lovely to see. We had sticking points in our training, but with the support of Dog A.I.D. we passed level three and became a fully-fledged team wearing the jacket with pride.



I think she loved wearing her jacket and being out with me and going to all kinds of places. We did talks and demonstrations she grew in stature when people kept saying they didn't ever imagine a Westie could be an Assistance Dog, we proved a lot of people wrong! Heidi was able to relax where ever she was as we proved at AGMs when she just lay on her settle mat and went to sleep until something happened. This often-caused great amusement but did show that she was not fazed by lots going on around her.

She became an Ambassador for Pumping Hearts. She was picked for this role by Paul O'Grady from large numbers of dog photos. He felt her smile and deep shiny eyes said a lot to him. We had to write a blog of her activities on a regular basis and send photos to them. My



health restricted doing too much of this, so we weren't as good an ambassador as I would have liked.

Wherever we went in her little red and yellow jacket people asked about her, what she did and were genuinely interested in our charity. I let people stroke and tickle her although I must say that when dressed she tended to be very aloof as though to say look but don't touch.

Heidi loved 2 things apart from me. Her Tiger toy and her tennis ball although latterly it was too hard for her to play ball. With Tiger we had a little routine every evening after

her supper. She went to find Tiger. She brought it to me and I had to take it, then gave it back to her when she went to her bed and suckled it for about 30 mins then she slept a little and left tiger in bed. Very cute.



People who met Heidi invariably loved her. Her deep brown eyes that just seemed to pour out a love of life. Her gentle nature, her shyness which she overcame when she became more confident over time I have countless stories about Heidi, the Church weekend away when she acknowledged the presence of the wolf in the children's play about St Francis with lots of gentle woofs which caused the congregation to collapse with laughter. Her enjoyment of water and diving into a pond which was stagnant and smelt rank people just staring in amazement "Did that dog just dive?" Equally she loved her hydrotherapy swims during the last few years, only stopped when she became ill in the pool and it was felt that it would no longer be beneficial to her.

Heidi is very much missed. I will never have another Heidi she was certainly a one-off Westie. Barney has big paws to fill.

Margaret Russell



Our journey to Judgment for all Assistance Dogs



My name is Burnie and I live in a small village called Llanfairfechan on the North Wales coast. I qualified on 10th May 2015 with my yellow Labrador Maisy.

This is Edward Williams and he lives with his wife Belinda in Tamworth. Edward qualified on 14th October 2012 with Ebony, a black Labrador.



Our journey starts

I was so happy that we were now a qualified team and could not wait to receive our ID and jacket. There was a slight delay with posting, but they arrived on a Saturday.....so excited and a little scared as to how the area would welcome us.

I thought the best place to go on our first outing in public as a qualified partnership was the local pub for a Sunday carvery where I had been going for weeks prior with my parents.

It was Easter Sunday 26th April 2015, our table was already booked, our usual table; Maisy would be out of the way and have room to lay on her mat. I made sure she had a good run before going and clean, as this would be her first time ever going into this type of situation. Mum, Dad, Maisy and I were ready and walked into the pub. Mum went straight through the bar to go to the restaurant while Dad followed. The barman stopped me and asked me to wait. He finished serving the costumer then came to me and told me that the dog was not allowed into the carvery/restaurant, I tried to explain she was an Assistance Dog but he said no. He said that guide dogs would not be allowed in because of the large step in the bar area and the blind person would fall; he made the gesture of falling.

No deaf dog either he said because there is no noise in

here that a deaf person needs to hear.

I just could not believe what I had heard, I explained it was discriminating and he could not do that. He said he did not care, no dogs allowed, his solicitor had told him he doesn't have to allow them in. I tried to show him my new ID, but he did not want to look at it. In the end he told me I could sit at a small round table in the corner of the bar.....while my parents sat in the restaurant. I told him that this was very unacceptable, that he had left me no choice but to report this, I paid for my parent's meal and left. I came home shocked, upset and very worried about 2 things, 1 – was this the way I was going to be treated in the area.....talk about knocking my confidence and 2 - I now had to report this to Dog A.I.D., my first outing and I am causing trouble already, well that is how I felt then. I sat down right away and wrote an email to the office, where Sandra picked it up. We spoke about it, she told me it was not my fault and tried to build up my confidence again. Sandra suggested I stayed away from the pub until it was all sorted out.

Dog A.I.D. got straight to it and wrote to the pub, The Village Inn in Llanfairfechan. More letters from Dog A.I.D. were sent, then finally a letter came from the pub, but after 6 months we were no further along and time had run out to log it in court. Dog A.I.D. had sent the last letter and were waiting for a response, but none came.

I got on with life, Maisy and I were going here and there and my confidence was building. I went to Crufts in 2016 and began to get to know fellow Dog A.I.D. members, either at events or on our Facebook page. A couple put up lovely photos of their adventures, but these photos looked familiar. I finally built up the confidence to put a comment up and even got a reply.....that was our introduction to each other. Next, we chatted about meeting up to discuss about fund raising as I could see that Ed, Belinda and Ebony had done a lot of it.

The date was arranged Sunday 17th April 2016, we would meet on the beach, have a walk to allow the dogs to get to know each other, it was a lovely sunny day.

For a surprise, Belinda had booked a table in the Village Inn, Llanfairfechan, for a carvery in the restaurant for us all.

Oh dear, I thought....I knew it had been a year since I last went in, maybe they had looked up the law.....but I had to explain to Ed and Belinda what had happen the year before while we walked.



The walk was lovely.....and I think I can say that we all got on like a house on fire, laughing at the same kind of things and believing in the same things too.

By now, we were ready for dinner and off we went to the pub.

Standing outside the pub my nerves shot up, but a deep breath and in we walked.

The same barman was there, serving. We waited until he had finished and when he came to us I said we had a tabled booked under the name of Williams in the restaurant please.....the pub was not busy, there was no more than a dozen people in and that included us. The barman said, I told you before; no dogs allowed and he muttered I thought this was sorted out last time. I wanted to shrink and disappear, but I had to do this. I repeated, we had a table booked under the name of Williams in the restaurant please and his reply was, no dogs in there, you can sit over there, pointing to the same table as last year that the pub had described in a letter as a designated disabled table.

I was polite and tried to explain that my dog was an Assistance Dog with ID and that he was being discriminating towards us for refusing to let Assistance Dogs in. He told me he did not care.

Ed stepped forward and introduced himself and asked the barman why he was refusing Assistance Dogs into the restaurant, he replied that the dog would jump up on the carvery and pinch the meat.

Ed also tried to explain that the table offered was not suitable for our needs, their offer did not satisfy reasonable adjustment, and he was definitely discriminating against us both.

Two Assistance Dogs and the three of us left the pub feeling upset, angry and hungry.

We stood outside and looked at each other, probably thinking the same thing.....what just happened??? We had lost our appetite so we called it a day. I felt so embarrassed and sad that a business in Llanfairfechan could treat people this way.

Both Ed and I reported it to the office and once again Sandra got onto it by sending the pub a letter. Letters and emails were being exchanged, the pub slowly replied. Sandra allowed extra time due to a bereavement the pub owner suffered, the pub continued to trade.

Three months since the refusal had passed, time was running by so fast. Belinda and I made some phone calls and found out that the next step was for Ed and I to write a letter to the pub, we did this and sent it, then waited for a reply in 28 within days. Nothing came back. Next, the Equality Advisory Support Service wrote a letter, they had a reply back from the pub's solicitor, shall we say, the reply was not good enough and we logged it with the court. Because we both logged it separately as we each had being

discriminated against, when we answered the question which court we wanted the case heard at of course we named a court near to each of us. Eventually, Ed's case was linked to mine, which meant the cases were going to be heard together but they were still separate.

Of course, now we didn't really know what would happen, none of us had been to court before.

I visited local solicitors in the area. They sat, they listened and looked at the paperwork I had, they all agreed that we had a case, but not one would even consider taking it on because the Equality Act was a minefield, one of them said, too big a case and they didn't have the manpower to research it all.

Belinda had a little more luck than I did, that solicitor wanted to take the case to High Court in London, but wanted 20 thousand pounds each upfront to pay for it which we definitely did not have. Even for him to take it to court it would have cost us thousands, this was money we did not have. This was when we realised we had to do this on our own.

Sad news came in November when we all heard about the passing of Ebony. Ed was at a loss and both were heart broken. A wonderful dog that helped raise thousands of pounds for Dog A.I.D. and the awareness of the Charity. A new puppy arrived in the New Year, before we had our first court date. Cadi is her name, a beautiful Red Fox Labrador. Maisy and Cadi soon became great friends.

Court date must be getting nearer as they offered me mediation by phone, I agreed and waited. It did not happen, as the pub did not want to take part with it. Court date was 18th July 2017 at County Court in Caernafon. We wondered, do we have everything, are we ready, we had our assessor the judge asked for, yes, we were ready. Ed had asked prior to the date if he would have the permission to take in his new 'in training' dog. The Judge wrote back and agreed.

I think I can say we were all nervous; it would have being my first time in seeing the pub owner for a long time. Sitting waiting to go in, I could not see them. We enter a small court room and only their solicitor and The Judge were present.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ...

Our journey to Judgment for all Assistance Dogs continued ...

We all thought it be over that day, but the Judge made sure we understood that this day was for him to decide if there was a case to be heard.

The only thing the pub's solicitor wanted to know was what my disabilities were. The Judge made it quite clear that he was happy with both our disabilities and that they would not be entitled to that information.

And so it all begins, the Judge could see we had no solicitor and asked why, he seemed to be very interested in the answer, that no local legal firm would take us on and we could not afford it anyway. The Judge made sure all the way through each court date that we understood what was happening and he used terms that we understood. The Judge told us that he would have to consult with his peers and would be in touch about the trial date, he asked if we wanted 2 half days or a full one, Ed and I agreed to a full day because we wanted it to end. We left the court feeling drained, aware what was coming up next and all of us hurt like hell....but our dogs, Maisy and Cadi were a credit to us, they lay under the table and slept. I think the Judge was impressed; it showed him how Assistance Dogs would behave and little Cadi was still 'in training'.

Over the next 3 months, we were instructed by the court to send certain information about ourselves and to request a report from ADUK, who kindly wrote one for the court. The trial date finely arrived, 26th October 2017 at Caernarvon. The pub had right up until that court date to contact us and talk about what happened and hopefully resolve things, out of court, but we heard nothing from them.

We arrived at court with all our files, feeling very nervous and were met by the BBC film crew, we had being interviewed a week before the court. A freelance reported joined us.

Belinda was going to speak on our behalf, Ed and I were pretty nervous and sick with worry by now, but at least it will be all over today, we thought.

We were called into court and it began. The pubs barrister began with me, first question was what my disabilities were. My heart sank, the Judge and barrister had words, all legal jargon, then the Judge explained to me that I had to answer in court, the Judge offered to clear the court but I saw no point in that, once I had explained my disabilities in court it would not stop the pub from letting everyone else know. Because I have quite a few problems, I only said a few in basic terms. The barrister then asked question after question about the table the pub offered us, my reply every time was, 'the table offered was unsuitable.' At no point in that hearing did anyone ask why the table was not suitable. The Judge asked the pub questions about the lay out of the pub/restaurant/carvery from the plans the pub supplied.

We referred to the booklet 'Assistance Dogs, A guide for all businesses' by Equality and Human Rights Commission, where it reads, 'Assistance Dogs are not pets and are treated as 'auxiliary aids''.

The Judge was very thoughtful, letting us have a break when we needed one, either for the dogs or ourselves.

Belinda was brilliant, she was there calming us, she crossexamined the barman (son of the licensee) and then the licensee. She talked about the Equality Act and Reasonable Adjustment.

Belinda told the court what our dogs meant to us, what they did for us and how life would be so difficult without them.

We were so impressed with Belinda and so grateful she was there for us both.

The Judge thanked everyone and told us that he would send his judgement out in writing in about 3 weeks, then instructed everybody in court that his judgement must not be told to others or printed in the media, that he would explain his judgement at the next court date. The trial was over. We left exhausted and confused, we had no idea how it went and we just had to wait.

We waited and waited. Typing up took the time as the Judge himself was doing it, I was told when I rang up just in case we had misunderstood things in court. The Judgement arrived, all 29 pages of it.....I took one look at it and panicked, made myself a cuppa and sat down and read it, page by page. I got on the phone to Belinda, had we won or lost? We were not sure. The Judge definitely understood why the offered table was not suitable for us, he understood why we booked a table in the restaurant.

We worried when the Judge mentioned how Belinda stated that Assistance Dogs are not pets, the Judge disagreed.

The Judge stated that Assistance Dogs come within the definition of domestic animals and regulations applies to them.

Oh well, we just have to wait until 4th December 2017 to find out. We were all too tired, stressed out and worried by now.

The morning of the 4th December, I meet up with Belinda and Ed. We went for a short walk with our dogs before heading to court. We were still no wiser as to whether we had won or not. We were all pretty deflated.



We arrived at court at 1.30, the media were there waiting and so were 2 fellow Dog AID clients and their dogs, Carolyn & Loki and Marye & Tilly. We waited to be called in. The first question the Judge asked us was 'has the pub being in contact with you with an apology?' No we answered, so he asked their barrister, he had to check with their Solicitor as the Licensee did not attend, they answered, as far as they were aware, no, the licensee had not contacted them.

The Judge went through his Judgement; he tried to explain to us too.

Eventually the Judge gave his verdict.

We had both been indirectly and unintentionally discriminated against.

We had both being discriminated against by failing to make reasonable adjustment contrary to Section 21 of the Equality Act 2010

YES!!! We had won the case.

We were awarded £1000 each and petrol costs for attending to court 3 times.

We gathered our thoughts and we all met up for an evening meal. It was supposed to be a celebration, but the verdict had already been on the BBC 6 o'clock news and social media in Llanfairfechan was going mad. Facebook was all negative and even bordering on threatening. (I had already being verbally confronted in Tesco after court in October as well as the media. The police were very helpful.)

The following morning it was in the Daily Post, local paper for me, the online comments were appalling. The police were informed about the Facebook comments and

eventually it was taken off and it was kept off. The police kept in touch to ensure I was safe and that there was no further confrontations.

Next, a justgiving.com fund raising page was set up by customer of the pub to raise money for the pub's fine. People I knew donated money to it, including neighbours.

People stopped talking to me. I was advised to get a personal camera and wear it. We won the case but I was the one being told I was in the wrong. Ed got his fair share too.

2018, a new year, new strength. The story went round the local papers for a few weeks. The pub's fundraising was given to the local schools in the end.

The story got into a Sunday paper and Metro, we got our story into a magazine. I was interviewed by Rip Off Britain with my trainer Eryl Restall. Would I do something like this again, I get asked......my answer is YES!

I hope I never have to but I will stand up for my rights to be treated the same as anyone else and I will stand up for my dog, Maisy. Our Assistance Dogs have no legal rights, only guidance; I hope to see our dogs have more legal protection in the future. We hope that our verdict will help others in this position and we are willing to help, just get in contact.

This is not something to be undertaken lightly however the more people that stand up against discrimination the better for changing the law for our Assistance Dogs accessibility in the long run.

We are out of pocket with costs taking the case to court, but as the Judge reminded us, we had the verdict, we had won our case, and this will go a long way he said. Please Clients, don't let yourself be bullied, stand up for your rights, it is good medicine as it has made me into a different person and most of all, there are people out there to guide and support you.....Belinda, Ed and myself. I had my confidence severely knocked, but having the support from Belinda and Ed I have gained my confidence back and more. Thank you so much to you both.

Burnie Clutton & Maisy



BRITTISH EMIPTIRE MIEDAL

Our very own Anita Castellina has recently been awarded a British Empire Medal for her outstanding contribution to voluntary work. She was invested in April 2018 and presented her medal at Preston County Hall by Lord Shuttleworth, the Queen's representative in Lancashire, in the esteemed company of George and her training group. She later went to Blackburn Cathedral for a celebration event, where she was accompanied by her friend Elizabeth Tittershall and Assistance Dog Dai.

Anita has tirelessly volunteered for Avon Business & Leisure Ltd for thirty years. Highlights during this time have included securing initial lottery funding to refurbish the building then later helping to obtain a £1.25 million deal that provided a new building with disabled access to all areas. Avon Business & Leisure is now the most used community building in the Cannock area and has won numerous awards.



In addition, Anita has fundraised for a number of other charities including Dog A.I.D. who her and her husband Larry hold close to their hearts – our only husband and wife duo each with an Assistance Dog.



Anita comments, "I had no idea I had been put forward for the medal, so it was a total surprise when I got the letter asking me if I would accept it. It feels humbling to be rewarded for doing something that I have always enjoyed doing and will continue to do. It was wonderful to have the company of my training group and their amazing dogs with me at the investiture. We will be off to Buckingham Palace in the Summer as well!"

This medal makes Anita and George a truly awardwinning pair as George was given an OBE from the PDSA four years ago – the first ever Dog A.I.D. dog to be awarded such an accolade. Well done Anita and George!!

Ride The Year 2018

My name is Megan, I am 21 years old, and I have multiple disabilities and medical conditions.

Throughout 2018 I will be raising money for Dog A.I.D. (Assistance In Disability) and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (UK), by cycling/bikejoring a total distance of 2,018 miles with my Assistance Dog Ruby, on my specially adapted disability bike (funded by The Adam Millichip Foundation and built by Quest 88 Hub).



Ruby will complete most of the miles running alongside me, where she will set the

pace. On longer or faster rides, she will relax and enjoy the view from a dog bicycle trailer instead.



I started my challenge on 11/04/18 and hope to complete all 2,018 miles by 31/12/18, but will

consider the challenge a success if I complete within 365 days, ending 11/04/19.

Throughout the year I will be sharing challenge updates, photos, and videos on my Facebook page - **Ride The Year 2018 - Adaptive Bikejor Challenge**.

Please show your support by liking/sharing our page, or making a donation at: https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ridetheyear

Megan & Ruby

IF MY DOG COULD TALK . . .



As pet parents we always try do to our best for our dogs, giving them all our love and affection and the best possible food, exercise, experiences and healthcare that we can.

The biggest challenge is that we can't see the world through their eyes. Despite our very best, well-intended efforts we can only offer the help and support that we THINK they need, rather than what they ACTUALLY want.

That's where the beauty of herbal self-selection comes alive. The Herbal Choices methodology (also known as Applied Zoopharmacognosy), gives your dog a say in their own health and well-being, maybe for the very first

time. It can help your animal to show you how to best support them, and what they need to get back into balance, physically and emotionally.

All dogs, including our domesticated dogs, have the innate ability to selfmedicate from the healing properties of plants, guided by how they taste and smell. Animals choose the things they need based on the 'hedonic' response – If it makes them feel good, smells nice or tastes sweet,

then it must be good for them, so they seek out these plants. Once they no longer need the extract, then it loses its 'feel good' factor and they stop selecting it.



In their daily life, access to the medicinal compounds found in leaves, flowers, berries, roots, algae and clay is often very limited, so although they could self-medicate given the chance, we rarely provide them with the opportunity, however a Herbal Choices can open up that wonderful world of herbal remedies to your pet.

Products are always offered in

pairs, so the dog always retains the element of choice, and we look to find their favourite products from a huge range of botanicals offered, including essential oils, powders, dried herbs, aromatic waters, and fatty oils. They should never be forced on an animal or added to their food as this takes away their choice.

Physical health concerns that have been helped with this process include detoxification after vaccinations or surgery, allergies, poor digestion, urinary infections, inflammation, skin and coat conditions. Seaweed, chamomile and marshmallow root are examples of regularly selected botanicals for these conditions.

Emotional issues such as coping with change, anxiety and nervousness, fear, depression, hormone balance after neutering and trauma are all issues that have been helped in the past with a range



of botanicals, often including valerian, vetiver and frankincense. The beauty of each session is that the dog knows and selects the precise blend of products that will work just for them, right now.

> The ability to support your dog effectively lies in careful observation of their reactions to the botanicals offered. They may choose products to sniff them, eat them or have them applied topically, but by watching closely, and responding to their choices we allow them to lead the session.

Taking the time to really watch and listen to your dog is a lovely experience and helps to build strong bonds between you, especially when

they realise you are truly listening and responding to their needs; it can be quite emotional!

As a Dog A.I.D. trainer I also understand and can help your dog work through any emotional issues or blocks that might be slowing your progress to your next level, and I offer a 30% discount for Dog A.I.D. dogs, both in training and qualified.



You can find out more at <u>www.twohappytails.co.uk/</u> <u>herbal-choices</u> or message me at my Facebook page <u>www.facebook.com/2happytails</u> and will be holding a workshop session at the AGM in July 2018.





































The Red Army in pics















event to celebrate working animals that help people. Marye did small demos throughout the day, there was a lot of interest in Dog A.I.D. and The Unity lottery. Although not a huge fundraiser, they did pick up more events, potentially some new clients and the possibility of some talks.

H



Every time you shop with Give as you Live® The charity of your choice gets a percentage without

costing you a penny!

Turn every pound you spend online into funds for us. Why not TEXT your donations To donate to Dog A.I.D. TEXT - DOGA10 £5 to 70070 or DOGA10 £10/£20 etc.





- £50.00 Lions Club of Leigh On Sea -Lucy Watts talk & demo
- £150.00 The Duke of Cornwall Hotel £10.00 Steve Fuller - Julie Adams Hatch
- £217.00 The Southwest Schnauzer Walk Group - Teresa Cort
- £300.00 Rayleigh Trefoil Guild -Lucy Watts talk & demo
- £289.21 The Guelder Rose, Quiz • night - Anita Castellina
- £57.00 Ruth Piggot, advent candles •
- £1000.00 Lions Club of Leigh On Sea - Lucy Watts talk & demo
- £94.74 Save & Save Marye Arnett- Clark
- £30.00 Hawcoat Town Women's **Guild - Keith Warwick**
- £80.00 Mr & Mrs Godden •
- £10.00 Annie and the Flint. • **Ilfracombe - Julie Adnams Hatch**
- £12000 Roger & Jean Jefcaote Trust •
- £15 Deborah Cornwall •
- £2500.00 The Hawthorne Trust •
- £25.00 Andrea Davidson •
- £200.00 St James Church Riding -• Marye Arnett-Clark
- £100.00 Mr & Mrs Pashley •
- £25.00 Janette Kennelly •
- £250.00 David Scholes
- £60.00 Ian & Vivienne Sleightholm • In lieu of Christmas cards
- £150.00 Mr & Mrs N Sleightholm In lieu of Christmas presents

(_

for raising a Paw

to support us

- £125.00 Louise Downing (Trainer) -• Wyndsend DTC, Stirchley & Happy **Canines DTC, Romsley**
- £1350.00 Crofton DTC •
- £25.00 Anita Castellina
- £20.00 Tina Cardiff •
- £232.25 Paws In Progress Anne **Tucker's DTC**
- £30.00 Mrs J.E.Aston In memory • of her mother, Sybil Scotney
- £174.00 The Friendly Dog Club -Kate Hurcombe
- £24.86 Sue Line Collection Box
- £200.00 St James Church Lent Lunch (Marye Arnett-Clarke)
- £30.00 Keith Warwick Walney Women's Guild Talk
- £150.00 Hammersmith DTC Pat White
- £14.78 Collection Box Marye • Arnett-Clark
- £40.00 Eastwood Fellowship Group • - Marye Arnett-Clark
- £100.00 Lynn Stacey BELLA'S-**TRIX CLUB**
- £10000.00 The Childwick Trust
- £50.00 Women's Evening Fellowship - Vivienne Sleightholme
- £505.00 Derek & Ali Tompsett -Proceeds of charity evening



£194.00 Robert Harold Swarbrick - Legacy

- £100.00 Jenny Dunn donation from raffles, Bingo, Fish & Chips fundraising
- £160.00 Liz Orme Craft event
- £8,256.63 Rita Sunman Legacy
- £25.00 Blind Club Keith Warwick talk
- £85.00 Aycliffe Archers League win - Becc Keith
- £100.00 Lynn Stacey BELLA'S-TRIX CLUB
- £1000.00 The Perranzabuloe Rotary Club - Hannah Crook
- £100.00 Lynn Stacey BELLA'S-**TRIX CLUB**
- £43.40 Natural Choice Anita Castellina
- £5000.00 Mr & Mrs Wilson Roger **Jefcoate**
- £40.00 Mr & Mrs Ballantine Peta **Brandwood**
- £138.39 The Perranzabuloe Rotary **Club - Quiz night**







STAM

STAMP COLLECTION - The stamps must be just as received through the mail. They need to be on single paper (just the front part of the envelope) and with approximately ¼" of paper around the stamp.

Stamps can be posted to address opposite or dropped off at the office.

Send stamps to ... Dog A.I.D. Stamp Appeal, 10 Chestnut Avenue, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 9XH THANK YOU



During my teens and early twenties, it became apparent programme, and Pippa qualified in that there was something wrong with my Dad. He was just under 6 months, as we had slowly losing his strength and would get tired more easily. done so much of the groundwork Eventually he was diagnosed with a rare muscle wasting disease called Polymiositis. This disease slowly took away his independence and confidence, and to see him losing his zest for life was truly heartbreaking.



parents had

rescue dog, Pippa, who loved to work. I was always interested in general dog training, but now I had real goals! I started to teach her to pick things up, walk slowly and anything else I could think of that would help my Dad.

Once we had the basics, I showed my parents what she could do, and for the only time in my life, my Dad was so angry, and refused to speak to me for a week! It was one of the hardest times of my life. I was always Daddy's girl and this threw me completely. In my excitement I had forgotten the most important person in this equation. I had basically told my Dad he

needed help. He was always so independent and the guest. It was such a relief to find an organisation who realisation that his own family saw him as disabled really totally agree with my ways of achieving the desired results hit him hard. That was one of the longest weeks of my life! through positive training methods. I am pleased to say after many tears, deep discussions and apologies, we made up and he agreed to see if we could indeed try to join the Support Dogs programme.

chap with a small dog who was a qualified Support Dog. He had been a mechanic and was now wheelchair bound. He spoke to my Dad at length, explaining all the ways his



wonderful dog helped him. We left them to it! This chat changed my Dad's perception completely, and he was completely on board after this. We were accepted onto the with her.



She literally changed my Dad's life in ways we never even expected! He had become nervous of going out, as people would knock into him, and unbalance him when he I just happened to see a walked with a stick. Having Pippa wearing her working documentary on Support dog jacket made people more aware. He would chat with Dogs, a charity who complete strangers who asked her what an Assistance trained people's pet dogs Dog was, because she was the first of her kind in the to become Assistance Birmingham area. Because she could go anywhere with Dogs and that was it, a them, they started going out to many more places, and plan was formed! My really enjoyed life again. Mum could also go out on her recently own much more, as she knew if Dad needed something, taken on a beautiful little Pippa would be there to look after him.

> As hoped, his independence was regained. My Dad started to teach her new things himself. He loved that she listened to him, because our previous dogs never did! He was always so proud when he showed off her ability to do

> > a new task for him. A real partnership! She loved helping my Dad and never stopped wagging her tail when they were together. Sadly my Dad lost his fight just over 5 years ago, but seeing the amazing difference that having a qualified Assistance Dog made to his life, I knew this was something I wanted to help other people to achieve. Finding the Dog A.I.D. charity was the answer to my

I am proud to say that thanks to all the hard work and enthusiasm my first client has put into her fantastic dog, Ollie, they qualified a few weeks ago. It was a very We went to Crufts that year and encountered a lovely emotional journey for me, because I know the difference

> this will make to Jenny and Mike. I am just so pleased could give something back to someone who truly loves their dog, and to see them working together is pure joy.



Louise Downing



From little acorns, oak trees grow. From its humble beginnings as a two volunteer band in Cannock it now has nearly 100 volunteer personal dog trainers nationwide and a head office in Shrewsbury. Headed up by its voluntary CEO with 4 part time support staff and over 108 client/dog partnerships in training around the kingdom. Dog A.I.D. has been raising awareness of completing 25 successful years helping people with physical disabilities to regain their independence through the training of their pet dog into an Assistance Dog.

The Officers Mess at RAF Shawbury was a splendid location for the afternoon to celebrate our Assistance Dogs charity's success – a

huge thank you to the Station Commander, Group Captain Norris for loaning us the venue and the team making it happen. We were lucky enough to receive sponsorship from Knights Tailoring Ltd who were founded in Shrewsbury and recently moved to servicing the troops of Salisbury Plane and Her Majesty's staff in the Royal Mews.

Master Air Crew Gus Highet who was the main liaison/fixer at RAF Shawbury for the event, managed to organise a surprise for one of the Dog A.I.D. trustees/client, Caroline Lewis. Caroline, who became tetraplegic in 1988, was airlifted between hospitals by the RAF. Gus managed to track down the pilot who flew the helicopter - Ian Rose (now of Cobham Aviation Services), and there was an emotional reunion – Caroline was actually stuck for words.

The new Vice Lord-Lieutenant (Colonel Mark Cuthbert-Brown DL) turned up and was wonderfully supportive along with the Shrewsbury Mayor, (whose daughter is already a local dog trainer (Sandra is hot on her trail to recruit her)! The Childwick Trust was also evident as one of our key funders for the new Operations Manager position and they were joined by The Aucott's who were representing the Masonic Charitable Foundation who kindly funded the last Client/Trainer workshop.

The undoubted stars of the afternoon were our clients and their dogs. Deborah/Dillon with their smashing demonstration of 'a day in our life – in 15 minutes', from finding Deborah's medication for her when she needed it to a shopping trip for sardines and 'special bread', finally slamming the washing machine door when he had finished emptying it!

Chloe and Ted's poignant tale was thought provoking to say the least. The strain of the day becoming evident when Ted insisted in clambering into Chloe's lap to calm her.

Our other wonderful clients/trustees who generously gave their time to entertain and enthuse our guests included Vivienne and Elsa, Tony and Archie, Chris and Beau, Caroline and Sera, Sandra, and Maggie. Thank you, a real job well done that Dog A.I.D. could not have done without you.

A really positive afternoon had by all.















Clothing



College Hoodie

- Hidden earphone loops
- Contrast flat lace drawcord
- Double fabric hood

Fabric - Body: 80% Cotton, 20% Polyester. Hood lining: 80% Polyester, 20% Cotton

Size S 36" M 40" L 44" XL 48" 2XL 52"

Trainers—£17 Non Trainers—£26 (plus postage)



Full Zip Fleece

- Cadet collar
- Self-coloured zips
- Pill-resistant fabric

Fabric - 100% Polyester pill-resistant.

Size 35/37" M 38/40" L 41/43" XL 44/46" XXL 47/49" Trainers—£18 Non Trainers—£24 (plus postage)



Half Zip Fleece

- Cadet collar
- Self-coloured zips
- Pill-resistant fabric

Fabric - 100% Polyester pillresistant.

Size 35/37" M 38/40" L 41/43" XL 44/46" XXL 47/49" Trainers—£18 Non Trainers—£24 (plus postage)



Multi Pocket Bodywarmer

- Waterproof peached polyester f
- Polyester taffeta lining
- Concealed hood with adjuster

Fabric - Waterproof Hydrafort 5000 peached polyester Inner: 220 series anti-pill symmetry fleece

Size S 37/38" M 39/40" L 41/42"

XL 43/44" 2XL 46/48" 3XL 49/51"

Trainers-£32 Non Trainers-£36 (plus postage)

How to play ...

You can play for as little as £1 per week, 50p of every £1 you play is guaranteed to go straight to Dog A.I.D. For just £1 per week you will be allocated with a six digit Unity Lottery number, every Saturday, the lucky winners are selected at random and prize cheques issued and posted directly to you.

So what you waiting for?! To play go to *www.unitylottery.co.uk*

click on the 'play now' page and select Dog A.I.D. or click the link on the Dog A.I.D. website www.dogaid.org.uk



3 in 1 Coat Waterproof peached polyester fabric

- Polyester taffeta lining
- Concealed hood with adjuster

Fabric - Waterproof Hydrafort 5000 peached polyester Inner: 220 series anti-pill symmetry fleece

Size S 37/38" M 39/40" L 41/42" XL 43/44" 2XL 46/48" 3XL 49/51"

Trainers—£38 Non Trainers—£46 (plus postage)



50p in every £1 you spend is donated to us!

Win up to £25,000 supporting a cause you care about!



and half moon yolk at back Fabric- -50% cotton 50%

Size S 38" M 40" L 42/44" XL 46" XXL 48"

£14.49 from the website (incl postage)





Road Refresher Bowl



Cage bracket for Road Refresher Bowl



Aqua Dog Towel



Embroidered Polo Shirts



Wristbands



Dog A.I.D. **Shopping Bag**



Lead Sleeve



Cosy Clicker



Plug Tugs (10)



English Leather Leads & Collars **Red/Black**

Fridge Magnet Clip



Treat Toob

Pen



Car Sticker



Keyreel



Fleece Scarf

For further details of products see website www.dogaid.org.uk or contact the office on 01743 588 469 or info@dogaid.org.uk 23



All Dog A.I.D. clients using Natural Instinct get a 30% discount

Natural Dog & Cat food as nature intended

50p in every £1 you spend is donated to us! Win up to £25,000 supporting a cause you care about!

> For more information about us and what we do contact: **Dog Assistance In Disability**

Earlyworld House - 7 Darwin Court - Oxon Business Park - Shrewsbury - Shropshire - SY3 5AL Telephone: 01743 588469 - info@dogaid.org.uk - Registered Charity No 1098619 - www.dogaid.org.uk