

Club clothing

Our new supplier **Goose and Gander**, is a shop in Wotton Under edge. Established since September 2013, it is owned by young and enthusiastic Marion Hewish and Oliver White.

It offers a custom printing/embroidery service to individuals/businesses/clubs through its sister business, County Logos.

We've been impressed by Marion and Olly's desire to give customer satisfaction. For example, some club members had felt that our previous supplier was unable to achieve high quality embroidery on fleece. Olly has been able to give us a much more legible logo. Nothing seems to be too much trouble for them.

Our club page can be viewed at gooseandganderltd.com. (Give it a week or so to become fully functional). We didn't want to limit individuality so club members have free choice of colour and style of clothing, and there is certainly a fantastic colour range of polos and sweatshirts.

Choosing the colour for our club teams (Agility Starters' League and Obedience Ten Teams Rally) was not easy. We didn't want it to be similar to any of the teams we compete against, which ruled out a lot of colours. To cut a long (very long) story short we have decided on 'Bright Royal'. A full range of garments is available by the manufacturer Russell, which will ensure a good colour match. The logo on the Bright Royal is navy and gold. There is also an alternative colour-way of royal blue/silver beige available for non-team clothing. The choice is yours.

Lettering (SOUTH COTSWOLD) is available for the back of garments, either in gold or silver beige. The curve of the lettering lends itself well to adding the name of your dog underneath. This is available at extra cost.

Garments can be ordered online, or phone 07814 378295 if you need advice about sizing or garment

choice. Rather than pay p&p, contact Liz Steele (07899 862625) to collect your order.



The royal blue/silver beige colour-way for non-team clothing.



Navy/gold on Bright Royal for team clothing. This can also be used on non-team clothing.

So you want to start Agility ?

Agility: “The navigation of a dog by its handler around a set of obstacles in a predefined order and in accordance with a defined set of conditions”.

The key points again then.....The handler is in control, knows how to steer, knows the way round the course and knows how to complete each obstacle safely and in accordance with rules - No small task.

At south Cotswold Dog Training Club we believe that Agility is not just a competitive sport for those who really excel: It's a fun activity that almost anyone can try. If you wish to enjoy spending quality time with your dog, having fun and reaping the reward of a better relationship without ever competing, you will not be pushed. If, however, once started you get “the bug”, we will try to support you every step of the way.

We run 4 week taster sessions (at our indoor Haresfield venue) where you are introduced to the basic equipment in a safe way. You also get plenty of guided homework to help you along. At the end of the 4 weeks you will usually be invited back to complete further 8 week courses along with your original starting group, so you continue with peer to peer support throughout.

But please remember, whilst the sport is often fast and always fun, agility is no substitute for basic obedience. Most of your exercises will be completed off-lead, so if your dog doesn't come to you when called (in a distracting environment), or will not wait whilst you walk away and then return, it is not ready for our agility classes. However, as our waiting lists can sometimes be quite long and we do not start teaching until dogs are 1 year old, there is plenty of time to polish up your basic obedience while waiting.

Paws for thought:

We all have a fantastic “Come” in the kitchen or in our garden with no distractions, but what about in a riding school with excited dogs about (no horses, of course) ? Many entertaining minutes have been spent watching one or more dogs perform zoomies around the ring . Whilst I do enjoy seeing dogs having fun, it is rather a waste of class time if they don't “Come” on command.

As for “Wait”, well.....Your dog can probably run a lot faster than you. You are going to need a head start. Building up a good “Wait” before introducing any equipment is essential or you will never stand a chance. If they can't do it when it's boring , they'll never do it when they want to get on with the exciting stuff.

I do hope I've answered a few of your questions. If you are interested, please feel free to drop me an email julie@bearder.co.uk or use the contact form on the club website and I will be happy to place you on the waiting list.

A letter from a dog

Dear Humans,

My friends and I were having a woof the other day, and we agreed that although you humans get a lot of things right, and give us a lovely life, there are some things that humans new to dogs don't realise we really do not like.

Here are a few of these things, just thought you might like an insight.....

If you don't know us really well please don't hug us tight. Happy hugs are reserved for our special people. Along the same lines, when you meet us please don't pat or stroke the top of our heads. That's where danger comes from, from above. We're much friendlier if you tickle our chins and chests. Oh, and it's rude to stare us in the eye too because some of us are shy (and a few of us are defensive and might take offence).

We know you humans have busy lives and can't take us with you all the time, but we really do get bored and stressed when we're left on our own too much. We don't always show it by tearing the house apart or barking until the neighbours go mad, but we can get really stressed and anxious, even becoming long-term depressed. We love company and mental stimulation, just like you do.

When we go for a walk (yippee!) please give us time to sniff and wee. It's our window on the world. We practically see with our delicate noses, and our sense of smell is as important to us as your sight is to you. I don't mean to be rude, but some of the smells you humans like are awful! Deodorants, perfumes, hair spray, air fresheners, cleaning fluids, the list is endless.....

We have better hearing than you, did you know? So we hate loud noises, especially bangs. Yelling at us won't help you get your message through, it will simply stress us out. We don't talk human, it takes us time to learn what you want. Structure and routine help a lot, so that soon you'll be saying "I swear he knows every word I say...."

Well, I think that's enough for now, I don't want to be too hard on you, you do try your best. Thank you for all the good times we have together.

Woofs and wags,

A. Dog

p.s. Paws for thought. When is a game a game, and when is it teasing?

Good Citizen Bronze Award Success



Some of the successful dogs and owners from recent Bronze Good Citizen Award classes.



Club Contacts for The Good Citizen Dog Scheme:

Obedience —Please contact Pat Jones for more details — Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Agility —Please contact Julie Bearder, julie@bearder.co.uk who is happy to liaise with Pat to set up Bronze classes for agility dogs .

JJ's 2015 Qualifiers

2015 was not a good year in terms of my health, so JJ's achievements are all the more creditable.

It all started in the late summer of 2014. JJ qualified for the Adams Derby at Dordale Show. The final of the Derby was to be held at the Adams show in July 2015.

In a moment of madness I hired a caravan to accommodate me for the Adams show. I have never camped, least of all stopped in a caravan! Bravely, Shelley Woodward agreed to come with me. Lucky really, as there is quite a lot I don't know about caravanning, and she did. We arrived on the Tuesday to find the 2 berth caravan installed, and the garden and awning up. The garden was not large but we could fit my car in it. Shelley's van was parked outside and had the useful task of collecting Chinese and fish and chips!!

I had entered most classes with JJ, not really looking at the schedule. I should explain, Toggle, my young dog, was not yet ready to do anything in a ring. Anyway, one of the classes JJ ran turned out to be a qualifier for the Camddwr Canine Cup. He won the class - such a good boy!

Back to the Adams Derby final: This was held on the Saturday at the end of the Adams week. Steve Read was the judge. The Derby is in two parts. The first is all the contacts and a very large spread, but not timed. If you are clear you progress to part 2, if not you are out. Sometimes the weaves are included, but not this time. The second part is jumps, weaves and tunnels, and is timed. I have to say I was very nervous, mostly because my friends were watching! JJ was clear on the contacts and set off well on the jumping part, but having a poor handler had a run at a jump and collected faults. No place for me, but the jump collected faults for a number of finalists, so I wasn't the only one.

Since he had qualified for the Camddwr Cup we had to prepare for the final at the Malvern Autumn Show towards the end of September. However my health intervened and I had radiotherapy just after the Adams Show finished, and that went badly wrong. So the whole of August I was incapacitated! We had already arranged to go to France in early September, so training for the final was somewhat limited! I think two training sessions for JJ.

Anyway, Janette Smith chauffeured me and held my hand throughout the day. It was a lovely day weather-wise and we could cruise around the stalls between runs. We had to be checked in at 8.30am, and surprisingly there was a queue for the gates for the general public even though the gates didn't open until 9. I was less nervous because I didn't know anyone who was watching, and thought we were outclassed anyway.



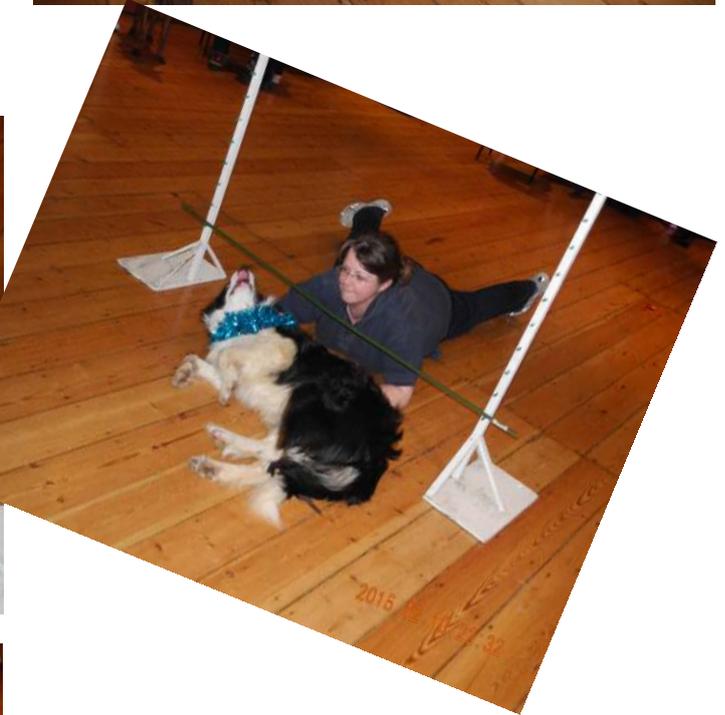
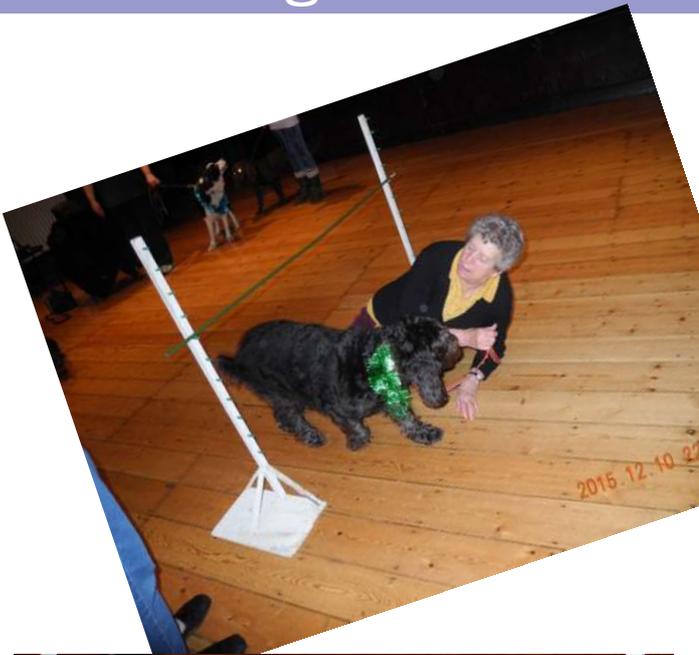
Charlie Wyatt was the judge and he was known to set fast and fairly straightforward courses. JJ preferred trickier courses, because his speed is not that great but he is an accurate jumper. The warm-up run was early, 9.30am, the other finalists were very high-powered and most of the dogs in a higher grade than JJ. We were clear but since I nearly sent him to the wrong tunnel we were not placed.

The final proper was in the afternoon. Again it was a very fast course and JJ did his best and was clear again. However, he was 12th and they only placed to 10th!!

Obedience Christmas Party 2015



- featuring the annual Limbo competition!



Dogs and the Law

This isn't a late April Fool joke!

Under new rules (part of 2014's Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act), £100 on-the-spot fines have been introduced for 'failing to have the means to pick up after your dog' -that's a poop scoop bag to you and me. It doesn't mean that you can be fined if *you have failed to clean up after your dog*—that law already existed— but simply that you *don't have a bag on you* when you're walking your dog. Offenders who don't pay the £100 within 7 days face prosecution and a fine of up to £1000. The fines will be given out by dog wardens or other council enforcement officials.

At the moment , Daventry District Council is the first area in the country to implement the new measures, but they may soon be adopted by other councils nationwide. It's a sad state of affairs that irresponsible dog owners have prompted this over-the-top reaction to the problem of dog mess. An education campaign before the new rule is implemented, and more poo bins around the area, will surely be needed to make it work.

See www.legislation.gov.uk or www.environmentlaw.org.uk for full details.

Licence to breed dogs

Tougher regulations designed to crack down on 'back street' dog breeders are to be introduced. New licencing restrictions will be applied to smaller breeding operations, making it easier to tackle those jeopardising a puppy's welfare. Any breeder who produces three or more litters in a year will need a licence. This presumably could be viewed by potential buyers. More details on the DEFRA website.

A Reminder

-that the April 6th 2016 deadline for the micro-chipping of all dogs in England has passed. (Many vets and charities are continuing to offer a free micro-chipping service). Don't forget your dog will still be required by law to have a collar and tag bearing full contact details. Failure to comply with the requirements of the new act carries a £500 fine.

Laws governing dog attacks will also be extended, closing a loophole which has meant that dog owners whose animals have attacked people on private property are immune from prosecution. (Householders will be protected from prosecution, however, if their dog attacks a burglar or trespasser on their land). More details at www.petlog.org.uk

Happy Snapping

Club members Val and Gordon Scott have suggested an ongoing **photo/caption** item for the Newsletter, and have started the ball rolling with this picture of Abbie, their Labrador, to make us all smile. Can you top it? Please send your photos to liz.steele@btinternet.com

It's a dog's life here



Breed Profile : Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier

The Soft-coated Wheaten terrier is a pure bred dog originating from Ireland, popular with crofters. It combines the steadiness of a working farm dog with the intelligence and energy of a terrier. The expected lifespan is 12-15 years.

A strong and hardy breed, its coat comes in four varieties: traditional Irish, Heavy Irish, English and American. The silky, loose waves are hypoallergenic, and the colour of ripening wheat. The coat does not shed or smell when kept properly combed.

This medium sized dog is less scrappy than many other terriers. It is spirited, intelligent and affectionate. It is a family dog, not suited to a kennels environment, usually attaching itself to the whole household rather than just one person. It relates well to children with its sense of fun and abundant energy, and often carries its love of games and pranks into an advanced old age.

We have a beautiful Wheaten, Ciara, in our Obedience Superdog class. Here's what owner **Emma Leyfield** has to say.....

I adore Wheaten Terriers but they aren't for the faint hearted as they need to learn their manners, most of which go against their instincts as a breed. Being outdoor hunting dogs with plenty of bounce and chase genes they will chase anything that moves and greet visitors with huge bouncing enthusiasm. Ciara will also try to eat everything on offer and not so on offer, her bouncy nature can lead to stealing food off the work surface! Unlike some terriers they only bark when there is a real need such as someone at the door, but otherwise they are very quiet. They also need to be groomed daily as they don't shed and the silky soft undercoat mats up very easily. I take Ciara to the professional groomer every five weeks for a bath and haircut which is essential to keep her coat in peak condition, so this is an added expensive to owning a Wheaten. They have a very short attention span and will easily become bored or switched off by an activity so you need to mix it up and play in a high energy way for short bursts. They love water and will jump into any river, lake and canal if allowed to, worst still they love a muddy puddle to splash in, which with their coat will lead to yet another bath.



Ciara as a puppy.....



...and even more beautiful now

They have great traits and make wonderful companions as they are extremely affectionate, loyal, cuddly, and once trained obedient. They are strong minded like all terrier breeds but they do like to feel you are pleased with them when they get it right. They have high energy for lots of exercise but will settle very nicely if only able to have two twenty minute walks a day. Although not a breed that you would necessarily choose for agility they can do it very well and Ciara has been making steady improvement over the last 12 months. They are great with children and the elderly. Ciara visits a care home every week and the residents love her. Despite her bouncy nature she is in tune with the nursing home atmosphere and remains very calm and gentle whilst there, even walking to heal on the walks with the residents. Conversely she is a lunatic when around children and unfortunately has knocked a few to the ground when over excited!

For more information, visit the website of the Soft-coated Wheaten Club of Great Britain at www.wheaten.org.uk

AGM 23rd March 2016: Trophy winners

Obedience and Agility cups and trophies were awarded to the following:

Award	Category - Obedience	Dog	Owner
Tryfan Trophy	Dog personality	Daisy—Jack Russell	Jo Payne
Shepherd Boy Cup	Crossbreed who has improved over the year	Winnie—Labradoodle	Daphne Beale
Gundog trophy	Gundog who has improved over the year	Charlie—Springer	Claire Uzzell
Pastoral trophy	Pastoral dog who has improved over the year	Cindy—Border Collie	Val Long
Terrier Cup	Terrier who has improved over the year	Chuck—Jack Russell	Virginia Lugard-Brayne
B.Collie/WSD	Collie who has improved over the year	Ben—Border Collie	Emma Lane
Open Show Cup	Worked out on a points system	Cindy—Border Collie	Val Long
Rio Cup	Worked out on a points system	Dixie—GSD	Susie Thomson
Superdog	Superdog class only	Indie—Cocker Sp.	Janet Taylor
Achievement Cup			
Crumble Cup	Wednesday class achievement	Ben—Border Collie	Emma Lane
Multi-crossbreed Cup	Multi-cross who has improved over the year	Pancho	Jill Sims
	Category—Agility		
Barnaby Challenge Cup	Most points gained	Arjo	Judith Clay-Davis
Starters' League	Best Starters' League Dog and Handler	Chops	Mike Ruse
Agility Cup			
Agility A frame	Alison's Class	Rosie	Val Cousins
Agility Cup	Simon's Class	Daisy	Jo Payne
Dorothy's Trophy	For outstanding service to the club Liz Steele		

Club Officials

Chairman	Obedience Trainers	Agility Information	
Susie Thomson (01453 835045)	Pat Jones Susie Thomson	Julie Bearder (01453 827829)	
Secretary	Jill Sims	Agility Trainers	Alison Edgington
Pat Jones (01453 860696)	Angie Swann	Julie Bearder	Pete Gibbons
Treasurer	Newsletter	Caroline Coventry	Kylee Noad
Angie Swann	Liz Steele (01453 833235)	Simon Coventry	Michele Phillips