



South Cotswold Dog Training Club

Newsletter

Winter 2016/17

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Caroline James

It was with great sadness that we heard, in September last year, that Caroline James had passed away. Caroline had been a member of the club since the late 1970's, competing in both obedience and agility. She had served on our committee for many years, advising us on legal, insurance and financial matters.

Caroline was a well-known and popular local solicitor. Tributes have been paid to her professionalism, but we will remember her for her love of dogs, her loyalty to South Cotswold DTC, and her colourful use of language in times of stress. She lived with cancer for over 20 years, but never let it stand in the way of family life, her career or favourite pursuits, setting an admirable example to us all. We'll miss



Caroline and Susie cut the cake at our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2012

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Could this be you?

The Committee is looking for a volunteer with the necessary expertise to input data to our official club website.

Familiarity with Wordpress, ideally with some HTML/CSS skills, will be necessary to tweak, update and amend the site content.

If, unlike me, you understood that last sentence and are interested in playing a valuable part in organizing information for both prospective and existing club members, please contact me, liz.steele@btinternet.com or on 07899 862625.

We are also looking for someone, (a long-term member), who is willing to take on the Newsletter editor's role. Knowledge of Publisher or similar software is needed, also the ability to plead and beg for copy.

Christmas Party 2016

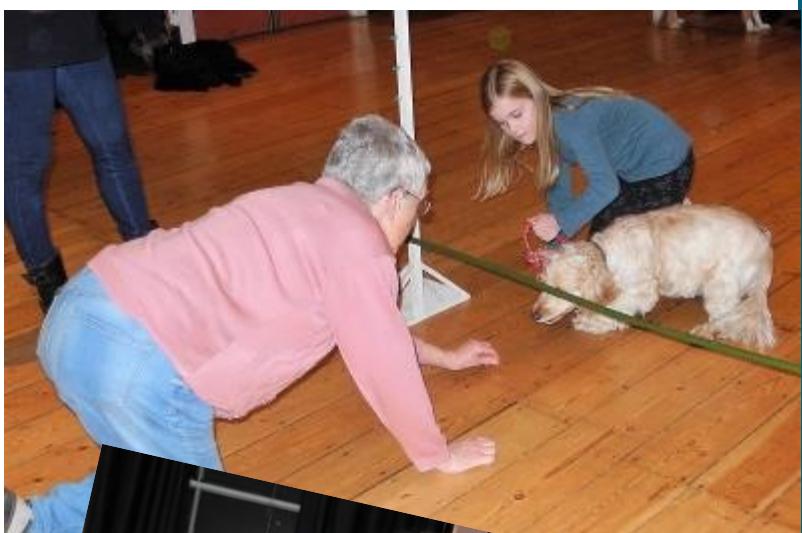


The Christmas party was held at Nailsworth Town Hall on December 14th, and followed the tried and tested format of quizzes, games, a raffle and lots of lovely food.

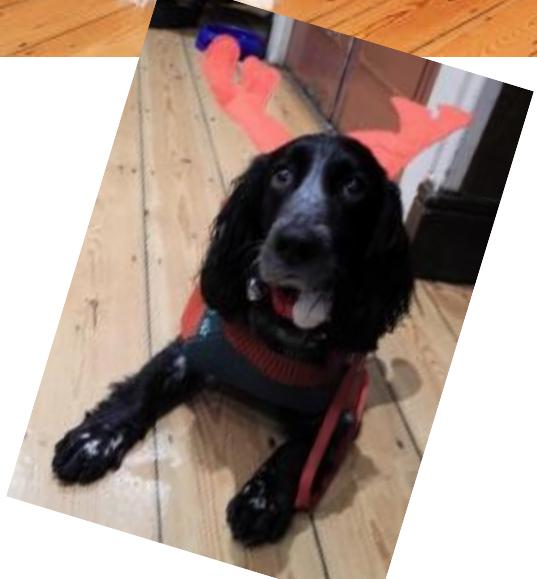
Our annual limbo competition never fails to bring out the competitive spirit in all the partygoers and provided a hilarious finale.

Thanks to Pat, Susie, Angie and everyone who helped on the evening.





Christmas Party 2016





Plans recently released by DEFRA set out its intentions for tighter control of puppy sales in England.

- 40,000 'unlicensed' dogs arrive in the UK via Ireland each year. 30,000 arrive from Eastern Europe.
- Some dealers are estimated to make £2 million a year – that's £35,000 a week – from unlicensed trade.
- In 2015 the RSPCA received 3,500 calls about puppy farms, more than twice as many as five years before.
- The RSPCA estimates that 20% of the puppies bought on the internet will die within six months.

The sale of puppies under eight weeks old is to be banned, and anyone breeding more than two litters a year will be required to obtain a licence from, and be inspected by, their local authority. Any seller requiring a licence, including those selling online, will have to display their licence in advertisements.

Breeders will also have to give new owners information about animal welfare and the need to ensure that their pets enjoy the "Five freedoms" laid down by the RSPCA.

It has been estimated that 88% of all puppies sold come from unlicensed breeders. The trade is worth up to £300 million a year. Pups are often removed from their mothers before they are eight weeks old, potentially resulting in behavioural and health problems.

Despite its own recommendation that a puppy should be seen with its mother the government has, however, rejected calls by MPs and animal charities for a ban on puppy sales by third parties. This would affect pet shops, back street sellers and puppy farm agents who pose as private sellers.

Neil Parish, Conservative chairman of the Commons environment, food and rural affairs committee, which published a report on the pet trade in November, said the plans do not go far enough. He felt that the government should have required anyone breeding more than one litter a year to be licenced.

The Environment secretary, Andrea Leadsom, claims that the new regulations will crack down on the worst offenders and give councils the authority they need to take action. Breeders will be liable to unlimited fines and six months in prison if they break the rules. (This contrasts with a sentence handed out at Basildon this month when a puppy farm gang were given suspended prison sentences and ordered to do 120 hours of unpaid work).

It remains to be seen how effectively these measures will be policed, and whether they will be publicised enough to enable unwitting members of the public avoid the unscrupulous aspects of the puppy trade.



Back in October some of the Committee members went along to a preview evening at the new Cats and Dogs home, situated just off the A38 at Cambridge. We were invited as the club had donated money towards the build in memory of Dorothy Blair, and no doubt the management were hoping that the focus of the evening, an Art for Animals exhibition, might persuade us to part with more.

However, resisting all temptation, we spent an interesting hour inspecting the modern facilities.

Funded by its six shops locally the home can house up to 21 dogs and 25 cats. There is a reception area, offices, an operating theatre (which Vale Vets will use for routine operations such as neutering) and kennels equipped with underfloor heating and sealed floorcoverings to facilitate sluicing out. The dogs' kennels each have a private run, facing outwards to open countryside. Some have a view though to the adjacent run, for sociable dogs, but others are blanked off to give nervous dogs a sense of seclusion.

The accommodation is divided into two blocks, to allow for quarantine measures, and cats are in their own separate building.



It was disappointing to see that only a few dogs were in residence. I was told by a guide that this was because the home was not yet licenced by the RSPCA. I found this very confusing, because the home does come under the RSPCA umbrella, (its logo appears on the website) and although every local branch has to be self-funding surely the charity could get its act together and licence its own home? This state of affairs has now continued for several months: Very disheartening for those concerned, I'm sure, and a waste of the super facilities.

Let's hope it's up and running properly soon.

Liz Steele

Club Contacts for The Good Citizen Dog Scheme:

Obedience: Please contact Pat Jones, patjones117@btinternet.com for more details of 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

Club Clothing

There is now a direct link from our website, www.southcotswooldtc.org.uk, to Goose & Gander,

the suppliers of our club clothing.

If what you're looking for isn't listed on their website, either ring Marion, or pop over to the Goose and Gander shop in Wotton Under Edge to view their complete range. They will embroider our logos on any garment. For example, Angie Swann chose a warm waterproof coat and beanie hat in red.



Please note, online prices are inclusive of embroidered logos.

We value your contributions:
Remember, this is your newsletter.
Please feel free to submit doggie stories, photos, news & views.
These can be emailed to the editor at :

[liz.steele
@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.steele@btinternet.com)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM 2017

Nailsworth Town Hall at 7.30pm on March 29th.

The agenda and how to submit items for consideration can be found on the club website.

RACE NIGHT

A Social Evening at Nailsworth Town Hall on Wednesday 26th April.
Come and have a flutter! No entry charge.

All members and friends welcome. Drinks and nibbles.
(Please tell your trainer if you are coming as we need to estimate numbers).

OPEN SHOW

George V Playing Field in Tinkley Lane, Nympsfield on May 13th.
Helpers are needed on the day (various roles) and to set up the day before.

Club Officials

Chairman: Susie Thomson (01453 835045)

Secretary: Pat Jones (01453 860696)

Treasurer: Angie Swann

Newsletter: Liz Steele (01453 833235)

Obedience Trainers: Susie Thomson, Pat Jones, Jill Sims, Angie Swann, Liz Davis

Obedience Helpers: Doreen Hoskin, Liz Steele

Agility Trainers: Julie Bearder, Caroline and Simon Coventry, Pete Gibbons, Michele Phillips, Alison Edgington