
HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS

DOG TRAINING CLUB

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016.

CHRISTMAS EDITION

Wishing all our members

A very happy Christmas

And a healthy new year

ST. LEONARDS DTC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Heather Hardaway

VICE PRESIDENT
& CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Lesley Thomas (219415)

SECRETARY: Mrs. Julie Norman-Brown (422004)

TREASURER: Miss Lesley Honeysett (755713)

COMMITTEE: Mr. John Chittenden (752549)
Mrs. Carol Shaw (225385)
Mrs. Janet Oxbury (854839)
Mrs. Velma Sellens (441238)
Mrs. Sally Wheeler (714369)

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLASS TIMETABLE

DON'T MISS *****

CHRIST CHURCH ORE (WED EVE)	LAST CLASSES 7 TH DECEMBER 2016.
CHRIST CHURCH ORE (WED EVE) All paid up members welcome	CHRISTMAS PARTY 7.30 P.M. 14 TH DECEMBER 2016
ST. LUKES SILVERHILL (WED EVE) (FRI P.M)	LAST CLASSES 7 TH DECEMBER 2016 LAST CLASSES 16 TH DECEMBER 2016

2017 RESTART: WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT ORE & SILVERHILL
***** 4TH JANUARY 2017 *****
INCLUDING NEW COURSE AT ORE

SPECIAL FUND RAISING EVENT AT SILVERHILL & ORE

SPONSORED STAY FOR MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS CHARITY

DURING CLASSES ON WED 7TH DECEMBER 2016.
Sponsor forms available at both venues (please pick one up if you want to take part) Last year we raised over £700 and this is our final year supporting this Charity (5 years) We will be voting for a new Charity to support for the next 5 years at the AGM in March 2017. (see article at the end of newsletter)

FINALLY ...THE LAST EVENT OF THE YEAR
THE CHRISTMAS Party Wednesday 14th December 2016.
Starts 7.30 p.m. sharp TILL AROUND 9.30 P.M.

Held at Christ Church Ore - ALL OUR PAID UP MEMBERS (Silverhill & Ore) WELCOME. This is a very popular event and can get a bit crowded, which may not suit some of the dogs. Games for the dogs and competitions for the owners. With or without a dog, owners will find something to enjoy. ENTRY £1.00 adults (50p children) which includes a FREE PRIZE DRAW TICKET. There will also be a SPECIAL DRAW for a folding chair in a carrying bag (just right for next summer!) PLEASE BRING A LITTLE EXTRA CASH WITH YOU – TICKETS £1 EACH. All money taken will go to Medical Detection Dogs. This is a chance to exchange Christmas Cards or perhaps give to Charity instead – a collecting box will be available for MDD. Our members provide the food! So....help us to have a really varied feast! Homemade goodies are just so special and usually tried and tested by family members, so sure to please. We always welcome packets of crisps/sausage rolls/mincepies etc. but whatever you decide, not too much of each please, variety is the aim. We look forward to seeing you all – perhaps even with a touch of Christmas decoration?!

PROGRAMME

- 1) CONQUERORS CORNER
- 2) POTATO SPOON RACE
- 3) FASTEST RECALL
- 4) SEARCH & RESCUE (worth bringing your dog's toy/ball)

INTERVAL, REFRESHMENTS, PRIZE DRAW,
RESULTS OF WEIGHT OF DOGS & NUMBER OF SKITTLES

- 5) BEST VETERAN (dogs age 10+ which have attended classes at some time or even still do!)
- 6) SEASONAL DRESS RELAY
- 7) TEMPTATION ALLEY
- 8) POSITIONS KNOCK-OUT

PUPPY COURSE SUCCESSES SINCE THE JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Puppy Courses held at ORE

29th June – 3rd August 2016.

With Instructor Velma Sellens

RACHEL WILLIAMS & SID
JO WHIFFIN & NELLIE
KEVIN WOOLLEY & WILLOW
ROSE BIELA & HUUB
MARIGOLD CONNOLLY & REGGIE
WARREN BURTON & PEPPER
HANNAH & CHARLIE CORNFORD & FIDGET
JANE GIBBS & POPPY

7th Sept – 12th October 2016.

With Instructor Julia Norman-Brown

LEONA DREY & APACHE
CHRISTINE GREEN & BEA
DUNCAN EDWARDS & JASPER
LESLIE GODMAN & BARNEY
SARAH ISDEN & WINNIE
SAMANTHA WILLIAMS & 'O'

19th October – 28th November 2016.
With Instructor Velma Sellens

SHEILA POOLE & JODIE
JANE BACHELOR & TOBY
KELLY NEAL & DOBBIE
ADRIAN BROADHURST & MOLLY
LISA BURGESS & MABEL
SAMUEL HALL MCKENNA & LULU

Puppy Courses held at SILVERHILL

With instructor Lesley Thomas
2nd Sept – 7th October 2016.

CLAIRE JOWITT & ANKAA
PETULA COUTINHO & ZIGGY
NORA ATKINS & LILY
ROWAN SOMERSET & EBONY

Final Silverhill Course results in next newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE AND IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THERE ARE OTHER DOGS (NOT CLASSED AS 'PUPPIES' FOR KC PURPOSES) WHO COMPLETED THE 6 WEEK COURSES AND WERE AWARDED ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS WITH THEIR DOGS. I am sure some of those will continue training to do their Bronze Tests and will have their 'name in print' in the next newsletter.

Bronze, Silver and Gold Tests have been held during the Summer and the successful teams were:

31ST JULY 2016 AT TENNIS COURTS – EXAMINER VELMA SELLENS

SILVER PASSES: PAT SMITH & LILY
MARK WINSTANLEY & BERTIE
CLAIRE MIDDLETON & BERTIE
HEATHER HARDAWAY & TESSA
LESLEY THOMAS & MAIZIE
SARAH BLANCHARD & DAISY

GOLD PASSES: LESLEY RUDLING & WOODY
DANI CLARKE & OLLIE
DONNA HILDYARD & HUGGLES
VALERIE MELLISH & BARNEY

3rd AUGUST 2016 AT CHRIST CHURCH ORE – EXAMINER LESLEY THOMAS

BRONZE PASSES: PAM WOODCOCK & JIMMY
ANTHONY HILL & DORA
DEBBIE SMITH & MIA

29TH OCTOBER 2016 – AT TENNIS COURTS – EXAMINER VELMA SELLENS

SILVER PASSES: ANTHONY HILL & DORA
PAT THOMAS ALLEN & PHOEBE
PAM WOODCOCK & JIMMY

GOLD PASSES: LESLEY THOMAS & MAIZIE
RUBY COX & ILLY

25TH NOVEMBER 2016 – AT SILVERHILL – EXAMINER VELMA SELLENS

BRONZE PASSES

DAVE SPICER & TAZ
EMMA GUNNINGHAM & MISA
CLAIRE JOWITT & ANKAA

30TH NOVEMBER 2016 – AT CHRIST CHURCH ORE – EXAMINER LESLEY THOMAS

BRONZE PASSES

RACHEL WILLIAMS & SIE
KATHLEEN WEBSTER & ZIGGY
WYNNE MOULD & LOUIE
JORDAN WHITE & BEAR

HUGE congratulations to all those who passed and good luck if you decide to carry on and try for the next level.. For those who may have a ‘sticking point’ on one or two of the exercises, please keep trying and we will try and come up with a suggestion to help you over the final hurdle. Whatever happens we hope you enjoy trying! And it is always nice to hear of instances when the training you have put in has been of use in certain awkward situations – really far more important than a rosette and a fancy piece of paper (but it is just nice to have the recognition for all that hard work !! I know)

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NEWS FLASH - Discover Dogs coach trip: Just to let you know this year’s trip on Saturday 22nd October to the ExCel Centre in London was enjoyed by 29 members and friends and family. We had to order a bigger coach than usual and it was FULL. Thank you all for coming. (further write-up by Julie further on in this newsletter) an exceptionally well-supported trip this year.

COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING

JUST REPEATING THIS REMINDER FOR THOSE
WITH RESCUE DOGS WHO MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN TO CHECK OR UPDATE
DETAILS

The Club now owns one of the officially recognised gadgets to check whether dogs have been Microchipped and this is part of all the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme test requirements.

Puppies will be screened during the Puppy Foundation Course and at the beginning of the Bronze,

Silver and Gold Tests and dogs will not pass unless they meet this legal requirement. That does

NOT mean that the identity disc is no longer required! They must wear that as well to be eligible

to take and pass the KC tests. PLEASE check the information is legally correct and readable.

HOPE YOU ARE ALL KEEPING UP WITH
EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS ON OUR
NEW WEB SITE
ALSO LINKS TO FACEBOOK ETC

**NEW PICTURES BEING ADDED WHEN WE
HAVE SUCCESSES TAKING THE KC TESTS
AT ALL LEVELS**

DIARY DATES FOR 2017

Well.....CRUFTS may be a few months away but it is never too early to put it on the calendar if you want to go on the annual coach trip to the NEC with the Club. Further details of OUR day and PRICES will be available in the New Year but here are the dates and details from the Kennel Club:

<i>Thursday 9th March</i>	<i>Terrier and Hound Groups</i>
<i>Friday 10th March</i>	<i>Toy and Utility Groups</i>
<i>Saturday 11th March</i>	<i>Gundog Group</i>
<i>Sunday 12th March</i>	<i>Working and Pastoral Groups</i>

Subscriptions now due

Please ask for a new membership form and fill as much of it in as possible (so that we can update our records) ensuring that we have more than one way of contacting you should the need arise.

Membership costs £5.00 renewable annually on 1st Dec. To continue to attend classes in the New Year it is essential that you are a paid up member and covered by our Club Insurance policy. We hope you will all make this task as easy as possible; we hate having to chase people up so your prompt renewal will be much appreciated. Membership is not due until the initial Course/Carry-on fees have expired as these are treated as membership for insurance purposes.

The Perils of Christmas for our Canine Friends

As the festive season approaches it is a good time to remember that Christmas represents many hazards for animals, with just a few precautions Christmas can be enjoyed and unnecessary drama avoided.

The joy of a Christmas Tree can be very short-lived if you have a puppy. All those tree decorations are perfect for chewing, swallowing but not quite so perfect for exiting the dog's digestive system! So for all those puppies and ardent chewers, put the Tree on a table and all that stress can be avoided. Tinsel is also quite hazardous when taken internally, so just make sure it is out of reach. Chocolate Christmas tree decorations can be located by any self respecting dog from a distance of approximately one mile! As we all know chocolate is poisonous to dogs and the most toxic chocolate is that which has the highest percentage of cocoa solids. Vets are most commonly called out at Christmas for dogs eating chocolate, so make sure it is out of reach.

Presents under the tree can be a further hazard. Never assume that your relatives (in my experience it is always relatives, rarely friends, who give the dodgy Christmas gifts) have given sensible presents. Last year our daughter was given a present by a relative whose presents are always opened with a sense of foreboding which is seldom disappointed, this time the gift was supplemented by a packet of seven little bars of chocolate, which although hidden up high were located and consumed by Zeppo, the Bichon. Fortunately, the theft and criminal were quickly apprehended and Zeppo was given something to ensure the chocolate caused no harm. So for all dog owners, make sure that if presents are under the tree or accessible, the dog is supervised at all times.

The Christmas turkey is very rich for dogs but most importantly don't be tempted to give the dog the skin. It is very fatty and can cause tummy upsets and in some cases it can lead to pancreatitis which can be very painful and cause life threatening complications for a dog. Christmas doggy treats should be given in moderation. Remember that raisins and sultanas can be highly toxic to dogs so no mince pies, Christmas cake or pudding for Fido!

If we do have a white Christmas, dogs should be discouraged from eating snow as it can lead to gastric torsion. Also do check their paws as they can become clogged with ice and snow.

If you have lots of visitors and children and it becomes very exciting, particularly if your dog is not used to children, put the dog in another room. It is far better to take precautions than to have an accident. Dogs don't really know its Christmas and may miss their usual routine. They like their own space at times, so make sure they have somewhere they can go to when it gets too much and, if they do take themselves off, make sure they are not pestered. Just because it is Christmas, it is no reason why they should not still be treated with respect.

So enjoy Christmas and take advantage of the extra time at home with your dog when you can go for lots of lovely walks together and burn off all those extra calories! Then you will be fortified and ready to meet the greatest hazard of all – the once a year dog walkers!

Julie Norman-Brown

*******'Sweetpea' by Melanie Reid*******

Sweet pea was rescued on Easter Sunday 2006 with 204 other dogs. There was a scene of unimaginable animal suffering in a 60 foot shed at a puppy farm in Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex. Terrified dogs shut in plastic crates, half filled with solidified newspapers, faeces and urine. Cages were filled with whole litters. They had only 4 to 6 inches of space at the top of the cage. Sweet pea was in a crate with some puppies. The stench of ammonia took your breath away. The shed was dark, without electricity or windows. There were no food or water bowls on the floor. All you could hear was silence. All 204 dogs silent.

Sweet Pea was in an appalling condition, her coat covered in urine and faeces, urine burns to her feet and a mouth full of rotting teeth. She suffered severe bouts of diarrhoea and sickness, and was kept by the animal sanctuary for three months, due to ill-health.

We met Sweet pea about 10 days after rescue. She was very small and weighed only two kilos. We put her into our garden, she just froze. She did not know what to do. I felt my heart would break.

Sweet pea came to live with us on 17 June 2006. When she first arrived she looked so very vulnerable. She sat in the corner of the room looking very sad. I started dog training in September. Progress was very slow. The first few weeks, Pea just sat on my lap. She couldn't walk to class, she had to be carried. Pea was so frightened, she would fall flat on the floor, and not move. Julie introduced Pea to her dog Zeppo. With Zeppo's help, Pea began to find her

feet. The two dogs would work together. This gave Pea the confidence to work. We were given so much support and help at dog training.

Pea in time passed her Bronze and Silver kennel club tests. She became an outstanding little dog. People would look at her, and just smile. Pea attempted the Gold kennel club test, on two occasions. She never quite made the Grade. But she was Gold Standard to me. Pea attended many dog shows, always taking first place, in Best rescue dog. She came third in a National competition, RSPCA Dog of the Year 2007. She has met Simon Cowell, been on television, and in National newspapers and magazines. Pea became an ambassador for rescue dogs, educating people about puppy farms.

Her health was never good, and we spent a lot of time at the vets. Pea was a really brilliant, clever, funny, little dog. Loved by her family and all who met her.

Thank you to all the dog trainers, who have worked with Pea and I. Thank you for your patience, you're never ending encouragement and all the laughter, we shared. She was one great little dog.

Sweet pea 17-01-2004 - 09-12-2015

Discover Dogs

The Kennel Club hosted Discover Dogs for the second time at the Excel Centre in London in October 2016 and Lesley organised a trip for the Club. Many people say Excel is easy to find, we would say that the general locality of the Excel Centre is easy to find, but the location of the exhibition halls and allocated parking is clearly a state secret! Fortunately, one of the passengers on the coach made use of their phone Sat Nav to guide the coach to the entrance. We all felt so sorry for the coach driver as he was in a convoy of lost coaches!

I took my dog, Zenda, who was doing her bit for German Shepherd Dogs and was appearing on the GSD stand. She quickly made friends with her fellow GSD's and all the dogs settled down to a day of fuss and chat. The highlight of the day was a visit to the stand by HRH Prince Michael of Kent who had once owned a GSD and has a great love of the breed. We then passed a pleasant day chatting to those who love dogs but are sensible enough to come and find out about the breeds that interest them so they avoid choosing one that may be unsuitable for their lifestyle.

Discover Dogs is a wonderful place to go to find out about all the breeds of dogs and as you visit the stands to see your favourite breeds, you can chat with fellow enthusiasts and get hints and tips which may help with any issues you have with your own dogs. These displays would not work without the tireless work of the breed Clubs that organise the breed booths. The GSD booth is run by Dorothy Callum who works so hard to arrange the stand, book the dogs and handlers (very carefully), send out the tickets and attend on both days of the event, all done just for the love of dogs.

Excel once inside, is laid out well and you can get round the trade stands easily. There are display rings where you can see demonstrations of the current dog activities as well as watching the semi final of the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Special Pre-Beginner Stakes. The entrants for this are taken from those who have won the KCGCDS Special Pre-Beginner Stakes held at specified shows throughout the year. The entry criteria for the KCGCDS Special Pre-Beginner Stakes is that the dog must have passed their Bronze Test. Many of the Club members on the coach had gone with the intention of supporting one of our members, Sally with Reuben who had qualified for the competition. Sadly, on the Thursday before the competition, Reuben was diagnosed with Kennel Cough so poor Sally, after so much

hard work, had to withdraw. However, it was win win for Reuben as the Good Citizen Dog Scheme ensured his goody bag was passed to him through our Club's President, Heather Hardaway. Remember, once you have passed your Bronze Test you too can enter the Special Pre-Beginner Stakes so think about asking your instructors for more information about this.

We returned to the coach at 4:30pm all laden with shopping and very tired after a lovely day. I got Zenda a lovely new bed so that she could comfortably stretch out on the coach. We had an excellent journey and we were back at home in time for Strictly Come Dancing. A big thank you to Lesley for organising the trip and getting entry tickets for everyone. Please remember we will run this trip again next year, so please come along for a lovely dog day out or if that is too far off for you, come along on the Club's Crufts trip in March 2017.
.....Julie Norman Brown

Obituary for Howard Withers

We were very sad to hear in August that one of the Club's Founder Members, Howard Withers, had died. Howard was associated with the Club for over 60 years and was involved with Fred and Vera Jones when the Club was formed in 1954.

Howard had a German Shepherd Dog called Viking who was a member of the Club's demonstration team in the 1950's. The Club put on shows in Alexandra Park for four Wednesday afternoons in the summer to supplement its income. These events averaged 1,200 spectators at each performance with Viking being one of the stars of the show. There is a lovely photograph of the demonstration team on the Club's website. Howard also acted as an Arena Steward.

Howard's wife, Betty, also had German Shepherds and competed in Obedience Shows with them. Howard competed in Working Trials with Viking gaining Companion Dog Excellent Certificate.

Howard also found the venue for the Club's famous Championship Dog Shows at the Bathing Pool Holiday Camp which was owned by Howard's parents. These shows are remembered to this day for the quirky venue and were held over a weekend with a dinner dance being held on the Saturday evening.

He represented the South of England on the Kennel Club Obedience Council. Howard acted as an Instructor, Accountant and Vice President for the Club. He supported both Fred and Vera when they each judged at Crufts and told me that he was the first person to act as a "Scribe" for an obedience judge, writing down the marks as they were awarded, a role which was later widely adopted.

Howard and Betty sadly lost one of their sons and their daughter in a car accident. Betty then developed Multiple Sclerosis and after her death the Club began supporting those suffering from this illness. Howard then married Maggie and although he no longer had any dogs, he always maintained his association with the Club.

Howard spoke at the club's 60th Anniversary Dinner where he remembered that on the first night the Club opened for classes, he carried in a very nervous German Shepherd Dog that then went on to win the Crufts Obedience Championship the next year.

Howard was an Accountant by profession and the Club made use of his skills for many years. He had many interests and was a well respected pilot, golfer and football referee to mention just some of his talents.

Howard was made a Life Member of the Club and attended our AGM's, even when his health began to fail in 2015. Sadly, Howard's health began to deteriorate and he died on 21st August 2016.

His funeral was a wonderful celebration of his achievements and life, attended by not only his family and friends but representatives from his various interests. His son, Ian, was very touched that a party from the Club attended and mentioned Howard's contribution in his Eulogy.

Julie Norman-Brown

SOMETHING TO GIVE A LITTLE THOUGHT TO.....Our AGM is held every year at the end of March

and in 2017 our 5 year support of Medical Detection Dogs will come to an end. As we have done for some time now, we will ask members to consider an alternative Charity for us to support for the next 5 year period. This requires interested parties to do a short presentation to the members present, outlining the aims and achievements of a Charity which they feel would benefit from our support and to get that across to persuade members to make that Charity their preferred choice. Some literature/handouts and a bit of forward planning would help those present make an informed choice. Some members are happy to support whatever we choose but with enthusiastic backing from members and friends the efforts we make in raising funds are better supported. Only those actually at the AGM will be entitled to vote so even more reason to rally support before and on the night. This is an important issue and we hope you may have suggestions and opinions on which direction the Club should take. If you have any questions please ask me and I will attempt to explain how it works. Lesley Thomas.

FINAL REMINDER - IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT ANY OF OUR CLUB OFFICIALS, COMMITTEE OR TRAINERS THERE ARE SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS NEWSLETTER. IF THE PERSON YOU WISH TO CONTACT IS NOT THERE, THEN CONTACT ONE OF THE NAMES THAT SEEMS FAMILIAR AND I AM SURE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DIRECT YOU.

PERHAPS KEEP THE LIST FOR FUTURE REFERENCE! THANK YOU FOR KEEPING IN TOUCH IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND FOR AN ODD CLASS OR NO LONGER WISH TO CARRY ON WITH TRAINING. WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK TOO.
