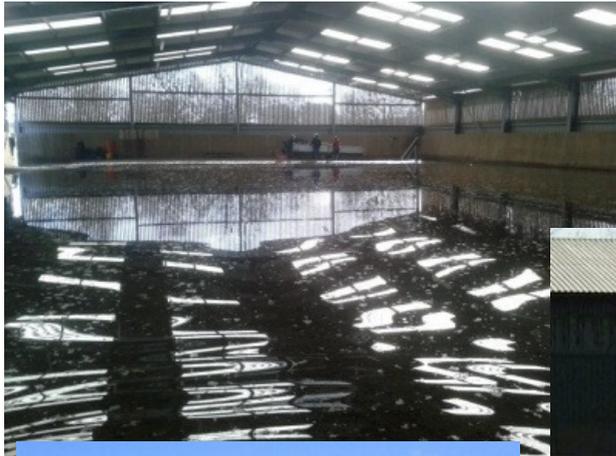


Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

March 2014



Rescuing the agility equipment from the trailer stranded in the flood at Churn



Thank you to everyone who helped!

Editor's corner

For me the start of 2014 has been all about the floods! However, to put that to one side, Wallingford have done well over several matches this winter; there are reports on two winter league matches and two against UpAndover in this Watchdog. It has been great to see individuals improving and winning classes over the winter.



Some club members attended a training day with Sian Illingworth the day before our return match with Andover, and it seems everyone is now talking about the charging penguin!

Following the training day and the match, the flooding spread to Churn, with the rise of an underground river that even Dawn (who has lived there for years) thought was a frankly unlikely local fairy tale. Sadly, it proved all too real and stranded the club trailer in the one dry spot within the barn, as the water lapped all around it. A group of club members with wellies (all), waders (Scott), a canoe (Dave) and an empty Transit (Scott again) met at Churn and managed to rescue jumps, feet, pegs, weaves, and tunnels, but the trailer itself and the contact equipment is still marooned, or possibly even under water by now.

The club has several junior members competing at OJAC this weekend, with Gio-Gio Botto and Rory Tidmarsh also both competing in the YKC agility at Crufts on 6th March. Wallingford Juniors are also competing in the YKC Team event at Crufts – best of luck to you all!

Alison Pearce



Flooding at Trindledown

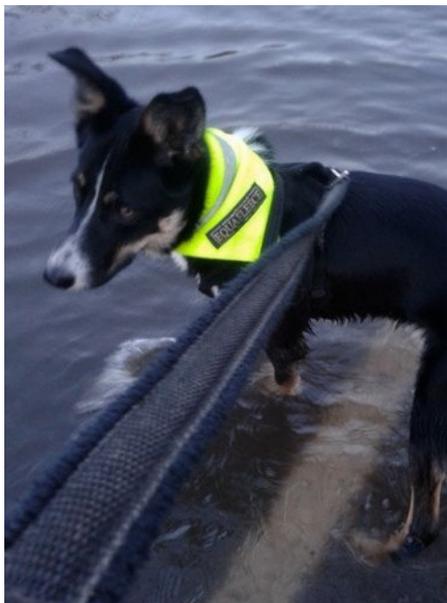
As many of you will know, I work at the National Animal Welfare Trust rescue centre known locally as Trindledown Farm. We suffered from flooded fields for several months last year, and to be honest none of us were particularly surprised when the water started to come up at the end of January this year – we were only surprised it had waited so long! But this year there is a lot more water around, and the water just kept on rising, flooding not only fields but roads, villages, houses, and the driveway to the centre.

The centre has been closed to the public since 7th February, as it became unsafe to drive in and out. Local roads are still flooded, and for several days the main A338 was completely closed through the village of Great Shefford due to the water levels. Neighbouring villages of Eastbury and Lambourn also had some flooding; many residents have not yet been able to return home, and one of my colleagues who lives in West Ilsley still has a Portaloo at the end of her drive.



Right: The flooded main road and entrance to Trindledown Farm.

Thankfully we have been lucky that the buildings have remained dry. The kennels, stables, office, staff bungalow, and other buildings are all above the water, and we have been able to move all the field animals to dry fields. The main issue has been access, as the water on the drive and across the entrance was at one point too deep even for most 4x4s.



It is impossible to park on the (flooded) main road, so we all had to find routes to walk across the fields, and our health and safety advisor had a little bit of a breakdown when she found out we were all wading through floods on main roads just to get to work – well we did all have high vis on (*left*)! One member of staff ended up walking over a mile to work one morning, only to find that by the time she went back again in the evening the water was over her wellies.

Overnight I became an expert on the “wading depth” of various vehicles, and after many fruitless phone calls we ended up hiring a Landrover with a snorkel fitted, which has become our water taxi. Each morning the staff park up at various strategic points away from the floods, and the live-in staff take it in turns to pick us all up and ferry us to work. In the evening the process is reversed, and then the Landrover sleeps on site, in case of any emergency out of hours.

During the day, the Landrover is on the go to pick up volunteer dog walkers, to go to the vet, to collect animal feed, and to do homechecks. Yes, we have carried on homing animals, and have managed this by ferrying potential owners in and out of the centre – strictly by appointment only! Well I guess it is one way to see if you are serious about putting in some effort to get an animal!

As I write this on 1st March we still have water well over a foot deep across the driveway, and we are still closed to visitors. Two of the monthly barn sales – a major fundraiser – have been cancelled so far, and the dog show and spring fair planned for April look distinctly unlikely. In the fields the water is flowing too fast to wade through safely in places, and in other parts huge still lakes have formed that are deep enough for the dogs to swim in – I have been using Herbie as a depth gauge for the bits that are too deep for me to wade through.

There is a video of the floods guest starring Herbie on YouTube:
<http://youtu.be/l8zL6zkeeEk>
and I have just been asked if a clip from this can be used in a documentary about the storms, so Herbie may be famous soon!

So, I apologise to anyone who has found me rather distracted, tired or more stressed than normal this last month – hopefully you can all forgive me!

Alison Pearce



Show Results

Mid Downs (KC) 1st March

Aileen & Mickey 1st G3 Jump pt1 (130)
Jenny & Guv 1st C6-7 Agility (143)
Tori & Bowen 3rd C3-5 Agility pt1 (212)
Carolyn & Ollie 5th G6 Agility (89)
Gill & Shade 5th C5-7 Jumping (213)



Above: Mickey wins G3 Jumping

The Dog Barn Show (Ind) 23 Feb

Annette & Maze 1st G4-7 Stchase (31)

Nedlo (KC Limit) 1 Feb

Jenny & Guv 1st G4-7 Agility (G6 21)
Jenny & Guv 1st G4-7 Jumping (G6 21)
- these two wins put Guv into G7, well done to both Jenny Kimber and Jenny Lovegrove!

Aileen & Rockett 1st G4-7 Jumping (G4 21)

Jenny & Guv 2nd CG1 - 7 Stchase (19)

Aileen & Rockett CR C1-7 Stchase (19)

Dovedale (Adams) (KC) 25 Jan

Aileen & Rockett CR CG1-7 Jump (191)

The Dog Barn Show (Ind) 25 Jan

Annette & Maze 2nd G4-7 Stchase (28)

Annette & Maze 4th G4-7 Agility (28)

UpAndover Away Match

23rd November

Cast your mind back to November last year, when Wallingford had a lovely afternoon at UpAndover's indoor venue for the first of our traditional winter matches. The cake sticks in my mind as being particularly memorable, and the carrot and coriander soup, but I don't seem to be able to remember any of the courses...!



In the Nursery category our sole Wallingford representatives Sue Cuddon & Mischief very nearly had a clean sweep with 1st Agility, 1st Steeplechase and 2nd Jumping – well done girls!

For the Starters, Dawn Graham & Daisy came 2nd in Jumping and Kath Ede & Tilly were 3rd. They reversed this for the Steeplechase with Kath & Tilly taking 2nd and Dawn & Daisy 3rd!

In the Novice Wallingford managed two more first places with Jill Lowe & Cass winning the Jumping and Ian Hutchinson & Dino winning the Steeplechase. Debbie Hockley & Blix were 2nd in the Agility followed by Sarah Rogers & Merlin 3rd. We also managed two more thirds thanks to Aileen Watson & Ozzie in Jumping and Gill Rhodes & Mindy in Steeplechase

In the Senior we managed to gain a second place in each class, with Kevin Pearce & Fell 2nd in Agility, and Carolyn Davies & her borrowed dog Shade 2nd in both Jumping and Steeplechase. So we had some notable successes, but the home team carried the overall victory – well done Andover!

Alison Pearce

UpAndover Home Match

9th February

After a worrying week of floods and what seemed like endless rain, we were blessed with perhaps not the brightest but the driest of days in quite a while for the return match against Andover. After hearing comments throughout the day like “hasn’t the weather held up nicely” and “doesn’t the ground drain well!”, we were incredibly lucky to have the match the day before the underground water took hold of Churn and left our equipment unfortunately abandoned at the venue! Thank you to everyone who later helped collect what they could!

Our Nursery handlers did amazingly well to bring home the top 5 overall places! Our brilliant junior handler Isobel Dains worked her socks off running the fantastic Worzel; achieving first places in Nursery Agility, Nursery Steeplechase and top place overall! Very well done to Jazz with Bailey for making it a Wallingford hat trick and winning the Nursery Jumping! It was great to see our newer members experiencing the competitive atmosphere and doing well in their runs!



Right: Izzy and Worzel show off their winnings, with thanks to Tania Kelly for loaning him out!

We had a slight disadvantage in the Starters category as we had fewer Starter dogs than our rivals. Despite this we still took two of the three available first places! Well done to Suzie Davies for winning the Starters Steeplechase with Evie and to Lucy Maguire for taking 1st place with Scooby Doo in the Starters Agility. Well done to all our Starter dogs and handlers, you all did brilliantly!

Our Novice competitors also did fantastically and achieved the top four places overall with Aileen Watson and Ozzie topping the leader board. Well done to them for taking 1st place in the Novice Steeplechase! Congratulations also goes to Debbie Hockley and Blix for taking 1st place in the Novice Jumping. Huge successes in our Novice category, well done to all!

Finally, our senior handlers were pipped to the post in the overall results by an UpAndover member but congratulations to Gill Kimber and Shade for their win in the Senior Agility and hopefully I did my bit winning Senior Steeplechase with Guv. Well done to all the Senior handlers! Congratulations to everyone who competed and thank you to everyone who came to watch or help out. It’s all worth it as long as you enjoy the day, no matter how you do in the ring!

Huge thank you to Aileen for organising the food and those that helped her throughout the day. Also thanks to Jo and Sarah for scoring, Wendy for organising the raffle and all those that helped sell tickets (I think HUGE success is an understatement!). Also thanks to all our Ring Managers! Thank you to everyone for helping out on the day, couldn’t do it without everyone chipping in and it is very greatly appreciated! I look forward to doing it again next year! Hopefully we’ll have our equipment back by then!

Jenny Kimber

Tales of a beginner...

My earliest memories of what I've now come to know and love as Agility are of when I was about 8 yrs old. We went out to get a cat and came home with a Lhasa Apso, I know hardly agility material right!? Apparently he agreed and didn't take kindly to being dragged over makeshift jumps of plant pots and runner bean poles!!

I then turned to ponies and spent every weekend mucking out poo to earn rides and fell in love with show jumping. Alas it was never to be and without the means for my own pony I never excelled to the dizzy heights of Olympia, instead I got married, started a family and left dreams of the ultimate teamwork winnings behind...or so I thought!

Having grown up with dogs, albeit seriously untrained ones, I longed for that unconditional and faithful companionship that I've only ever got from my dogs. Seemingly from nowhere the thought crossed my mind, why not get a dog and do agility! Thinking back I'd recently seen the WDTC demo group which triggered some happy memories. One thing stood in my way, a less than enthusiastic husband!



Thankfully I'm not one to be dissuaded and he knew all too well by now his resistance would only make me more determined, tenacity won out and the hunt was on to find my forever pup. Unbeknown to me I was one friendship away from everything I was looking for and needed to know. All it took was a throwaway comment during a playground conversation for everything to fall into place....

Enter the phenomenal Mrs Botto (rescue dog fosterer & agility trainer) whose daughter goes to the same school as mine! I've never believed in coincidence, more divine appointment, and so on July 2nd 2012 at 5 months old we welcomed the adorable Kermit (now Timmy) of Many Tears into our home and what a match made in heaven it was!

As soon as he was old enough we began training with Wendy. Timmy took to it like a duck to water and our friendship grew as complete beginners we learned together. Both of us having so much fun and making great friends with our class mates Jazz and Bailey. But I'm not one just to have fun and the desire to compete was growing.

We were very excited to be invited to the newbie introduction evening at WDTC in January 2013 where we met loads more friendly people with heaps of experience and happy to share it! I was nervous to begin with, what if Timmy went nuts and ran off, and chased all the other dogs, or wouldn't listen to me? Guess what, that's exactly what he did at first! I was horrified but thankfully everyone was so understanding, patient and helpful – seems he wasn't the first to do it, what a relief! Soon all my fears melted away and I learnt quickly through asking questions and watching others what to do and what *not* to do!

The indoor environment with many dogs coupled with the outdoor training and other distractions soon became invaluable experience for our confidence in competing. I set the goal for my first competition to aim for, UKA Mapledurham Sept 2013. Let me just reiterate

how important it was to have the encouragement, advice and experience of Wendy and all those at WDTC who train and attend training. I can only imagine with horror how many more mistakes we could have made without their care and attention. I learn best by doing and experiencing, be it my own mistakes or others, so I was hugely grateful to have people willing to share things with me!

The day soon came and with butterflies in my stomach we set off at an ungodly hour, with all sorts of paraphernalia (most of which I didn't use!) for the Mapledurham Ajaxs show. It was wet and cold but we were determined! So much was going through my mind but I arrived early enough to let Timmy stretch his legs off lead before I left him in the car to register.

I entered 4 classes and proceeded to spend the rest of the day consumed by course walking, being in the right place at the right time (with or without my dog) and getting measured all seemingly at the same time. It was hectic and mind-blowing and that was just with one dog, let alone 2 or 3!!! Thankfully many WDTC friends were there (you know who you are!) and supported me throughout the day, even holding Timmy while I walked courses as there wasn't time to pop him back in the car!

We got E'd 4 times but we'd been so close to going clear on our first attempt! So despite my dodgy handling and Timmy's trip to the river at jump 13 it was a brilliant day and I was hooked. As worried as I was about Timmy's behaviour in the ring there were plenty of people in the same boat and many were having worse days than me!

Where next? Well it wasn't the best time of year to begin our competing career, winter was coming and I had little idea where to go next that was reasonably close by. You can imagine how excited I was to learn of the winter league, which WDTC were invited to join for the first time and that we were needed to compete!!! What an answer to prayer and what an experience not to be missed.

Over the winter we have competed 3 times and loved every minute! We have gone from 4 E'd runs (again) to 1 clear, 1 5f and 1 E second time out (the clear in G1 agility earned us 2nd place) then recently 2 clears (*picture right: 2nd agility & 3rd jumping G1*) and 1E where we just missed the last pole on the 12 pole weaves, my bad! I write this ahead of the last winter league meeting and can't wait to get back out there. I am amazed at how far we have come and glad to be reminded of it when my expectations zoom off ahead of us. 😊



This year the club have asked us to have aims and objectives which are great, even if you just want to have fun. I'm hoping to move up a grade in Kennel Club and qualify for the UKA finals in the beginner classes. If you've read this far, thank you and well done! We're having a blast so feel free to ask me anything, if ever I can 'pay it forward' I'd love to.

Lizi Bowerman

Winter League Match Results

Match 3 – 18th January

Amazing! Not only did everyone do well, but the drama before the results came out had us all waiting in suspense! What had happened was that two teams had inadvertently run extra dogs and there was much discussion about the possible penalties for this. I made a decision on your behalf to back the loss of runs for the clubs concerned in our final match, rather than a loss of points (it could so easily have been us!).

However, there had also been a mistake in the tallying of results and when I contacted Janet Smith, the co-ordinator of all the matches, it meant we eventually came 3rd – well done everyone. We are creeping up, match by match.

Although Janet won't read this, it is worth a huge thank you to her. She has battled on with the coordination through a significant family loss. I admire her, and thank her for steering us through all the required paperwork for each match.

Once again we had a fantastic ring party to aid Sam Johnston, our judge for the morning, through the jumping courses. Thank you Sam for some lovely fair courses, and thank you to everyone who helped on the ring. Our efficiency means we finish in good time and allowing us to have a bit of a break before the afternoon courses.

3rd overall – how did we get there? Results – but remember they only place to 6th in large and 3rd in combined small/medium. The full results have been available on our Facebook page and show that points for the Club have been gained by dogs other than those listed below.

Nursery Agility (11 in class) 1 st Sue and Ella 2 nd Kathryn and Loki 5 th Jazz and Bailey	G2-5 Jumping (53) – well done the smalls & meds 1 st Tania and Kia (4 th overall) 4 th Robert and Glen (5 th overall) 2 nd Alison and Basil 3 rd Jose and Pera
G1 Jumping (43) 6 th Kath and Tilly 3 rd Lizi and Timmy (9 th overall)	G2-5 Agility (41) 1 st Annette and Maze 2 nd Debbie and Blix 5 th Tori and Bowen 1 st Gill and Mindy (7 th overall)
G1 Agility (44) 2 nd Lizi and Timmy (10 th overall)	G1-7 Agility (44) – nothing!
G1-2 Jumping (49) 6 th Dawn and Daisy	G3-7 Jumping (44) 2 nd Carolyn and Ollie
G1-3 Jumping (54) 3 rd Pam and Martha (17 th overall)	G3-7 Agility (41) 1 st Gill and Shade
G1-3 Agility (49) – well done the smalls & meds 1 st Tania and Kia (3 rd overall) 2 nd Pam and Martha (5 th overall)	G6-7 Jumping (30) 3 rd Carolyn and Ollie 2 nd Wendy and Bambi (6 th overall)

Well done everyone. Just the match on 22nd February to go....

Aileen Watson

Winter League Match Results

Match 4 – 22nd February

3rd on the day and 4th overall!

Our final Winter League Match and everything to play for – having made steady progress throughout the matches, could we continue in that vein? – Well, yes we could. Fantastic results (even though it didn't quite feel like it as the results were given during the day!) but not only did we come 3rd again on the day (just 20 points behind 2nd), and, although it was announced we came 5th overall, – **we actually came 4th**. Well done everyone.

The results show that in the end there were less than 50 points between 5th and 3rd in the overall standings (just 3 first places).

From various comments both on facebook and in real life, it would appear that most people have enjoyed the experience, and it is a great opportunity for our newer handlers and dogs to experience a competitive, but supportive, atmosphere. I hope that this is something we can build on.

Nursery Agility (11) 1 st Kathryn and Loki 3 rd Jazz and Bailey 4 th Sue and Ella (5 th overall)	G2-5 Jumping (56) 1 st Annette and Maze (2 nd overall) 5 th Debbie and Blix (6 th overall) 6 th Sarah and Merlin (7 th overall) 2 nd Gill and Mindy (11 th overall) 3 rd Jose and Pera (16 th overall)
G1 Jumping (45) 3 rd Kath and Tilly (4 th overall) 3 rd Suzie and Evie (7 th overall)	G2-5 Agility (50) 1 st Gill and Mindy (2 nd overall) 2 nd Gill and Berti (3 rd overall)
G1 Agility (42) 3 rd Lizi and Timmy (4 th overall)	G1-7 Agility (37) 2 nd Jenny and Shade 6 th Ian and Dino (7 th overall)
G1-2 Jumping (43) Nothing!	G3-7 Jumping (37) 4 th Robert and Glen 3 rd Wendy and Bambi (7 th overall)
G1-3 Jumping (59) 3 rd Pam and Martha (17 th overall)	G3-7 Agility (35) 6 th Jill and Cass (16 th overall) – lots of smalls and mediums did well in this class including Gill R and Wendy although they didn't get rosettes!
G1-3 Agility (45) 4 th Dawn and Daisy (5 th overall)	G6-7 Jumping (30) 5 th Rory and Ammo (6 th overall) 2 nd Wendy and Bambi (7 th overall)

See you all in October for the start of next year's matches (well I will probably see you before, but you know what I mean!)

Aileen Watson



WDTC AGM

Date: Wednesday 12th March 2014
Venue: Astons Village Hall, OX11 9EQ
Time: 7.30pm for 8pm start



Reminder: Membership lapses at the date of the AGM for anyone who hasn't paid so please make sure you have contacted Jacky or Kevin to update your membership prior to the AGM.



Wiki Results up to 1st March

The new competing season starts again! The Wiki gives you the opportunity to 'boast' and share your success stories whether it be a clear round in a show or a wonderful place.

Remember that whatever the show, you can share you and your dog's triumphs with the rest of the Club.

Did you know that your results from Winter League and Andover matches (since the start of the year) are included and for those who are not yet able to access the Wiki or have not got into the habit of visiting it this year yet..... Here are the top results so far (not including OJAC which is happening as the below are prepared!):

Juniors

Name	Points
Isobel & Worzel	11
Rory & Ammo	2
Millie & Kizzy	2

Starters

Name	Points
Lizi & Timmy	7
Ella & Sue	6
Suzie & Evie	6
Kathryn & Loki	6
Daisy & Dawn	5

Novice (top ten only)

Name	Points
Tori & Bowen	20
Annette & Maze	17
Gill & Mindy	11
Debbie & Blix	10
Tania & Kia	10
Aileen & Rockett	9
Aileen & Ozzie	7
Aileen & Mickey	7
Pam & Martha	6
Gill & Bertie	4

Senior

Name	Points
Jenny & Guv	31
Gill & Shade	20
Carolyn & Ollie	8
Wendy & Bambi	4

If you want to get access onto the Wiki website where all the results are collated please contact Ian Hutchinson who will assign you a login.

Aileen Watson

WDTC 2014 Teams



CRUFTS Team Agility Competition - with the final at Crufts, March 2015



This is a competition for teams of 4 dogs running an Agility course in a relay with baton changes. Dogs can be Large, Medium or Small but all the dogs in a team must be the same height.

Shows we are likely to have 1 or more teams entered:

Sunday 11th May	Tunbridge Well CTC Show	Ardingly, Haywards Heath, RH17 6TL
Sunday 25th May	Nottingham DTC Show	Collingham, NG23 7RF
Saturday 28th June	Wraxall Show	Wraxall, BS48 1NE
12 or 13th July	Rugby DTC Show	Walton-on-Trent, DE12 8LN
Saturday 26th July	The Agility Club Show	Ardingly, Haywards Heath, RH17 6TL

UKA Team Agility Tournament – with the final at UKA Grand Finals, near Bristol, end Nov 2014



This is for a team of 3 dogs of any heights. The dogs will run an individual agility course and a team relay course which will include an A Frame & 12 weaves, but no see-saw, dog walk or table.

Shows we are likely to have a team or 2:

Saturday 22nd March	N.A.D.S.	Rockley, Marlborough, SN8 1RS
Monday 21st April	UKA Easter	Dowtys, Cheltenham, Glos. GL2 9QD
Saturday 31st May	Quad Paws	Mapledurham, Reading. RG4 7TR
Sunday 22nd June	MADS	Birmingham Rugby Club, B94 5LH
Sunday June 29th	GT Agility	Dowtys, Cheltenham, Glos. GL2 9QD
Saturday 19th July	Captain Jack's	Dowtys, Cheltenham, Glos. GL2 9QD
Sunday 24th August	Hawbridge	Hawbridge, Tirley, Glos, GL29 4HJ

If you'd like to be in a team please let me know either via the Wallingford Wiki or email (gill.lowe at tiscali.co.uk) at least 2 weeks before the closing dates for the shows if possible, although the UKA teams may be entered on the day. The UKA NADs show will be the first show with teams & they will be entered on the day.

*Jill Lowe
(WDTC team co-ordinator, unless anyone else wants to do it)*

Don't forget to send your pictures, successes, stories, show photos, judging reports, demo dates and anything else you think might entertain us for the next issue alisononline@yahoo.co.uk