

[www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk](http://www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk)

Kennel Club No. 2045

# **Members Newsletter**

## **2018**



## **Wye Valley Retriever Club**

Mr Luke Thompson-Coon, President	Tel: 01432 850528
Mr Terry Dukes, Vice President	Tel: 01568 797367
Mr John Jones, Vice President	Tel: 01608 651126
Mr Brian Lambert, Vice President	Tel: 01432 278331

### **Committee**

Mr Morton Redpath, Chairman	Tel: 01885 482211
Mrs Christine Peers, Secretary	Tel: 01432 860584
Mrs Nicola Pointer, Treasurer	Tel: 01432 274613
Mrs Sarah Akehurst, Membership Secretary	Tel: 01432 760743
Mrs Jean Tidmarsh, Training Secretary	Tel: 01432 274527
Mr Roger Wiggins, Field Trial Secretary	Tel: 01886 812653
Miss Kelly Stringfellow, Assistant Field Trial Secretary	Tel: 01562 753798
Mrs Kerry Flamank	Tel: 07813 019677
Mrs Ruth Thomas	Tel: 01886 880868
Mr Michael Gough	Tel: 07974 666835
Mr Tony Griffiths	Tel: 01432 350852
Mrs Sally Worthing	Tel: 01432 851871

## **Dates for Your Diary 2018**

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Training Assessment Day at Westhide
1 <sup>st</sup> May – 19 <sup>th</sup> June	WVRC Training – 8 week course
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Annual General Meeting
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	WVRC Puppy, Novice and Open Working Test - Dunclent
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	WVRC Training at New House Farm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	WVRC Puppy, Novice and Open Working Test – Yarkhill
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	WVRC Training at New House Farm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	WVRC end of Term Test & Fun Day
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Herefordshire Country Fair
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> August	WVRC End of Term Annual Dinner
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	WVRC Field Trial Training Day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	16 Dog Novice Field Trial, Dunclent

## Training and Membership Fees 2018

	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Couple</b>	<b>Junior</b>
Annual Membership	£10.00	£15.00	No fee
Joining Fee	£10.00	£10.00	No fee
Training Fee per Dog	£60.00	( 8 week course )	
Training at New House Farm	£10.00 per session per dog		

Members may only handle one dog in a class. Please make sure that you attend your class with a lead, whistle (attached to a lanyard), dummy bag and poo bags. If you miss two lessons without notifying the trainer of a valid reason expect your place to be offered to someone else. There will be no refund of training fees. Please note, for our training purposes, dogs are considered to be puppies up to 18 months of age.

If you can commit to dummy throwing at a class for the whole 8 week training, your training fee will be waived – see training application form for further information.

Minimum requirement for dogs in training (at any age):

1. Walk to heel on a loose lead without pulling
2. Simple recall
3. Sit quietly/sit and stay off the lead – i.e. no noise, whining, barking or interfering with other dogs.

We recommend taking dogs to obedience classes to get the essentials.

Please also note our trainers are volunteers - any guidance or advice on gun dog training is based on their personal experiences and achievements.

## WVRC Items for Sale

Please contact Mrs Jean Tidmarsh at [jeantidmarsh@btinternet.com](mailto:jeantidmarsh@btinternet.com)

Polo Shirt	£10.00	Sweatshirt	£12.00
Baseball Cap	£7.50	Ties	£13.00
Ladies Scarves	£13.00		

## **Future Events**

Dates and venues of the Wye Valley Retriever Club Working Tests are in this newsletter. The Field Trial Training Day and Field Trial(s) schedules and entry forms will be sent to members and posted on our website. Please do check the website and Facebook regularly for details of our events. Please photocopy the entry form printed on the centre pages of this newsletter if you require more than one copy and cannot download further copies from the web site.

## **Chairman's Report**

As I write my report I am optimistic about the future of our club, we have a strong committee who are enthusiastic about our club and I would like to welcome new officers of the committee but thanks those who are long standing.

The WVRC keeps on growing in numbers and this year our membership has increased significantly due to our open field trial status, Roger Wiggins our Field Trial Secretary has worked incredibly hard over many years for the club and its members, so we can trial our dogs at some very beautiful places. We are grateful to him for all his hard work and efforts and also thankful to Michael & Jane Gough and Lord & Lady Dulverton for inviting us to their ground to hold our field trials there.

I would like to congratulate our committee having organised several activities throughout the year, our Working Test Secretary and Field Trial secretary have included their reports that outline everyone's achievements at our tests and trials and congratulations to those of you that have run and succeeded at these events. As in previous years, Skinner's have generously supported our club and for that we are eternally grateful. I think you will all agree what magnificent and generous sponsors Skinners are.

Members of the WVRC are privileged to train during the summer months at Westhild Estate by kind permission of Luke Thompson Coon who is also our club's President. I would like to thank Luke for his generous invitation and his overall enthusiasm and support for the club.

Thank you to everyone who has helped this year, it doesn't go unnoticed, you are all what makes our wonderful club.

Morton Redpath - WVRC Chairman

## **Membership**

The 2016/2017 season for the club has provided an enjoyable and varied number of events and training for all levels of ability. These activities could not take place to such a good standard were it not for the commitment and support of the membership as participants or helpers. The club also owes a great debt to our hosts for their willingness to let us use their land and facilities for these activities - thank you so much. The prizes provided by our sponsors allow us to run excellent training, working tests and field trials and we are very grateful for their support.

This year the WVRC has seen a big increase in applications for membership. This is largely due to the fact that the club now has Open Field Trail status, a very exciting development. This could not have happened without Roger Wiggins driving the application forward with much hard work and determination. It is a fantastic achievement for the club and we are fortunate to have his dedication on our side. The current number of members/joint members remains at 300 but indications from recent membership applications are that this will grow with the new status which is wonderful. It was decided this year to split the secretarial and membership roles between two people since the combined role was too much for one person with the increasing numbers.

If you can use email it would be very much appreciated if you could ensure that we have your email address. Stuffing envelopes is a laborious task and the cost of postage can be prohibitive! We hope that you have a very enjoyable and successful 2018 and look forward to meeting you and your dogs at club activities during the year.

Sarah Akehurst – Membership Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**

Hello from your new treasurer. I have recently taken over from Anna Yates, who has done a marvellous job over the last few years keeping a tight rein on the finances and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the club for all she has done while in the position.

The year is not yet at an end but the accounts are looking fairly healthy, which is helped by not having any major expenditure.

Income has been good this year, with an increase in membership, and from entries in our Working Tests and Field Trials. There was also additional income

from the Three Counties Show in Malvern where a number of members put on a display for the public, showcasing all the hard work they and their dogs have been putting in in training. But the organisation and planning of the day was all down to Jean Tidmarsh who did a sterling job in keeping us all in order (not an easy job). The three days were a great success, so thank you Jean.

I would also like to thank the other members of the committee for welcoming me on board and supporting me in doing this job.

Nicola Pointer – Treasurer

### **Secretary's Report**

There have been a lot of changes on the Committee this year so some of us are now on a steep learning curve! I have taken over the role of Secretary from Sara Bowie who has worked so hard for the Club and who will be a hard act to follow. The Club has gone from strength to strength, gaining Open Field Trial status. This in turn has meant an influx of new members resulting in our Field Trial, Working Test and Membership secretaries having to cope with a lot more work! Training went well this year and we also had a great End of Term Test and Fun Day giving everyone a chance to put all that training to the test. The other benefit of the End of Term Test is having an opportunity for everyone to get together, as some of us are “ships that pass in the night” on training nights! Thanks to everyone on the committee for supporting me in my new role. I hope to see many of the Club members during 2018.

Chris Peers – Secretary

### **Field Trial Secretary's Report**

We held our novice field trial at Dunclent on the 3rd November 2017 at the kind invitation of Mr Michael and Mrs Jane Gough. We decided to implement the FTMS (Field Trial Management System) which enables computer literate competitors to enter on-line. The remainder sent their entries by post and it turned out about 50/50 in each.

At this point I must thank my assistant Kelly Stringfellow for all her help and assistance in dealing with the entries and getting used to the FTMS system and for all her help and assistance during the trial.

We would like to thank all the helpers and our sponsors, Skinners, who all helped to make the trial a great success. Kelly has kindly written a report which is included in the newsletter.

Roger Wiggins - Field Trial Secretary



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## **Working Test Secretary's Report**

We held two Working Tests in 2017. The first Working Test was held at Dunclent Farm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Michael Gough on 1st April. Our judges for the day were Jayne Coley, Phil Bruton, Charlotte Earnshaw and Mike Jones.

The morning saw entries from 51 dogs running in Puppy, Novice Dog/Novice Handler and Novice. Despite the large entry and the efforts of a solitary swan attempting to halt proceedings by landing on the pond at Mike's test, the judges did a superb job and had the chance for a brief lunch before commencing the Open class in the afternoon.

27 dogs entered the Open test in the afternoon.

The awards were presented by Mr Michael Gough and were as follows:

### Results - Puppy

	<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Handler</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Waterford Jaipur	Claire Raymond
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Shadeoak Major	Christopher Pilkington
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Swiftlands Austin	Ellena Nunneley
4 <sup>th</sup>	Buffskin Rebel Rebel To Canal House	Mac Chapman
COM	Coughtcross Tarka To Canal House	Lesley Chapman

### Results - Novice Dog / Novice Handler

	<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Handler</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Movenne Diago	Elizabeth Catto
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cynhinfa Maestro	Julie Shaw

Special mention for our youngest handler, Harry Worthing age 13 who took part in his first test with Movenne Dark Knight NFC.

### Results -Novice

	<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Handler</b>
1st	Fordbank Oaksey	Kate Green
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cynhinfa Ollerton Of Laggengill	Neil Dutton
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hassycott Sea Spirit	Jean Fisher
4 <sup>th</sup>	Hassycott Hero	Ben Goring
COM	Oceanred Canvas Back	Chris Marchant
COM	Millerise Jemima	Janice Miller
COM	Roxhart Aquene	John Cornforth
COM	Stokes Of George At Ashwynd	Danielle Turton

### Results - Open

	<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Handler</b>
1st	Stykes Boy Llangynidr	Haydn Willmott
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gwynteg Fyne	Stuart Arch
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rocky Lane	Jean Fisher
4 <sup>th</sup>	Shuttifield Gracon	Julia Redpath

Congratulations to all who received awards.

Our second Working Test was held on 25th June at a new venue, Garford Farm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs James Parker. Our judges for the day were Tess Lawrence, Clare Baker, Lisa Harris and Simon Pullin.

Again, we had a good entry with 39 dogs entered in the morning for Puppy and Novice and 24 dogs entered for the Open class after lunch. Another very enjoyable day was had.

The awards were presented by James & Helen Parker and were as follows:

### Results - Puppy

	<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Handler</b>
1st	Kaliture Red Pepper	Lucy Mixture
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Roxhart Winnie	D. Cornforth
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Swiftlands Austin	Ellena Nunneley
4 <sup>th</sup>	Coughtcross Tarka To Canal House	Lesley Chapman

### Results - Novice

	<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Handler</b>
1st	Castlemans Soul Man	Adrian Phillis
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Constanigree Shooting Star	Nick Swan
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hassycott Sea Spirit	Jean Fisher
4 <sup>th</sup>	Laggengill Dawn	Leigh Jackson

### Results - Open

	<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Handler</b>
1st	Kaliture Cuinn By Ashmorgold	Karen McCarthy
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Slipside Ebony	Paul Green
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Endacott Todd For Lovehayne	Richard Edwards
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sorrelcott Excalibur	Helen Goodwin
COM	Flagonhall Hermes Of Waterford	Jayne Coley
COM	Maderablanca Amarillo	Stephen Le Voi
COM	Paid In Full	Robert Fisher

Once again, congratulations to all who received awards.

Thank you to our hosts for the two events, Mr & Mrs Michael Gough and Mr & Mrs Parker for giving us the opportunity to test our dogs on their fantastic grounds.

Thank you to our judges for giving up their day and setting such enjoyable tests. Thanks also to the stewards who kept things flowing - the swan didn't beat us!

Thanks also must go to Skinners for their generous sponsorship of the two Working Tests.

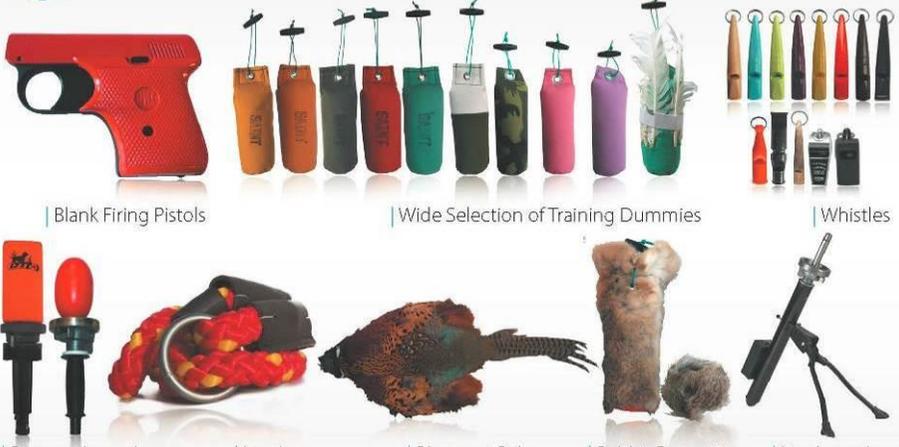
Finally, thank you to everyone who helped to put on two enjoyable days of tests - those who threw dummies, those who provided lunch and a constant supply of tea & coffee, those who organised the trophies and rosettes and those who came early to set up and stayed late to pack everything away. Without the help of people generously giving up their time, events like this would not be possible.

We would encourage and welcome other members to come forward and help us run more Working Tests in 2018. So if you would like to get involved, or find out bit more about how you could help, please do get in touch.

Kerry Flamank – Working Test Secretary 2017



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## End of Term Test and Fun Day

Having taken full advantage of the WVRC training in 2017 Echo, my Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, and I were looking forward to testing our metal at the End of Term Test & Fun day held at Roger & Claire Raymond's wonderful training ground. All participants were divided up into teams containing dogs at different stages of ability. Having a minor breed, the pressure is always on not to look a complete chump in the presence of the shooting man's favorite gundog - the Labrador! The first test set by Iris Wright was a long seen retrieve on an uphill slope followed by a blind in an adjacent copse. It wasn't our finest hour but Echo, who found the dummy throwers more interesting, did get the retrieves eventually!

The second test was set by Julia Redpath and was a seen retrieve and a memory retrieve in a copse area. Echo would have been much better had her handler been quicker to spot that she was again heading off towards the dummy thrower and blown a stop whistle earlier!

The third test was set by Terry Dukes and was the retrieval of two blind dummies from a patch of long grass. Echo did a lovely job of these retrieves and redeemed herself with good points for the team.

The fourth test was a wonderful challenging one set by Frank Wright. It was a long memory retrieve downhill but then a seen retrieve was put out at the top of a bank which had to be accessed over a jump, down a bank and over a ditch. I knew this would be tricky for my inexperienced dog. We failed the initial run out but I was allowed to re-send her closer to the jump. Through really enjoyable team work we succeeded in the retrieve. I was so proud of my pocket rocket. I can't say we were the greatest contributor to the team points but we didn't totally disgrace ourselves.

Our final test was a classic fairly long seen retrieve and a memory retrieve set by Roger Wiggins. Echo did the first part beautifully but decided initially to completely blank the second because she found the bunny smells in the hedgerow more interesting. She eventually deigned to bring the dummy back which I suppose was something!

Having got the Test out of the way we were served a great lunch of hog roast rolls, delicious cakes and hot drinks then it was on to the Fun Day element. It was a real laugh with a relay race, a find the teddy exercise, a sausage and spoon race around weaves and dummy wanging to see who could throw the

furthest and had a steady dog. Since I throw like a girl I didn't have high hopes but we did OK and Echo remained nice and steady for me.

As a newcomer, I really enjoyed the chance to put into practice the things Echo and I had learnt in training in a test situation whilst amongst friends. I learnt we are not yet ready to show the Labradors a thing or two and that Claire may have a good point when she says that Tollers are hard work. I do like a challenge!

I would like to thank Roger and Claire for allowing us to use their wonderful venue again, all those who set such great tests for us, all the helpers who threw dummies and set up the fun activities and all the other people who worked so hard to feed and organize us all. These events don't just happen and all your hard work was much appreciated.

Sarah Akehurst

## End of Term Test and Fun Day - Team Results

1 <sup>st</sup>	Team Krug	90%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Team Bollinger	80%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Team Mumm	78%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Team Lanson	69%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Team Tattinger	66%



## End of Term Test and Fun Day – Individual Results

<p><b>Foundation</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Harry Worthing with Leo 2<sup>nd</sup> Susanna Everitt with Lottie 3<sup>rd</sup> Christine Staff with Joy</p> <p><b>Novice</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Cherry Smithy with Boris 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Gough with Woolet 3<sup>rd</sup> Alison Leake with Leaf</p>	<p><b>Intermediate</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Chris Peers with Flynn 2<sup>nd</sup> Sally Worthing with Blue</p> <p><b>Open</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Laraine Goodman with Monty 2<sup>nd</sup> Nick Swan with Purdey 3<sup>rd</sup> Jackie Masters with Inca</p>
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### Annual Dinner

The Annual Club Dinner was held at Burghill Valley Golf Club in August. Over sixty members and guests sat down to a delicious dinner. It was the first time the Club had been to Burghill Golf Club and we were not disappointed. Their PA system allowed everyone to hear the presentation of the trophies, certificates and speeches.

Anna received a reward for all her hard work as Treasurer for the Club over many years. Unfortunately, Sara was not present to receive her reward for her hard work as Club Secretary. In his speech, Morton thanked them both for their support and hard work.

Jean Tidmarsh



### **Herefordshire Country Fair**

The 2017 Herefordshire Country Fair was held at a new venue – the King George Playing Fields in Hereford. Because it is a public park in the centre of the city, the venue was not ideal.

The Club ran the scurry competition at the Fair but there were fewer dogs and our takings were down. Perhaps it was more difficult to bring dogs since parking was some distance away and there was a Park and Ride in operation.

Several attractions at the Fair showed the involvement of Herefordshire in the First World War. It appeared that the fair was enjoyed by all.

Jean Tidmarsh

### **Royal Three Counties Show**

The Club was invited to perform a gundog demonstration at the Royal Three Counties Show at the Malvern showground in June. The show took place over three days and the Club performed two demonstrations each day. Each afternoon the Club had half an hour in a smaller ring to talk to the audience about the Club and the dogs and to answer questions.

The Club's demonstration had eight handlers and dogs, two dummy throwers (Sue Swan and Terry Dukes) plus a commentator.

The demonstration was kept simple, because there were so many distractions around the ring. The dogs all behaved extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed their time in the rings. The organisers were both helpful and supportive.

It was possibly the hottest part of the summer and it was difficult to keep the dogs cool. A nearby pool helped to keep the dogs cool and added further enjoyment to younger members of the public who came to watch the dogs retrieving dummies from the water.

Thanks to the Club members who gave up their time to take part in the demonstrations and promote the Club. Thanks also to Terry and Sue, and the two commentators Liz Griffiths and Veronica Harris.

Jean Tidmarsh



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### Dunclent Novice Field Trial 2017

We held our 16 dog Novice Field Trial at Dunclent Farm, Stone, Kidderminster on Friday 3rd November. Huge thanks to our wonderful hosts Mr & Mrs Michael Gough for their very generous support. As always they put on a marvellous day. Many thanks to the beaters for their hard work and the guns for their good shooting.

Thanks to our judges Mike Larkin, Simon Hagain, David Kirkby and Haydn Wilmot and also to our stewards Iris Wright, Claire Raymond and Ruth Thomas. Thanks also to our sponsors, Skinners

Finally, a massive thank you to the team of helpers who turned up to game carry, mark etc. - Sue Goring, Ben Goring, Rod Davies, Bella Brown, Steve Prosser, Julia Redpath, Terry Dukes, Nicky Pointer, Dale Pointer and Cindy Joules. Ben did a fine job of being official picker up. Hopefully everyone enjoyed Rod's catering at the end of it! They all gave up a day of their time and mucked in to help make it such a fabulous day. We couldn't have done it without them!

After the host and our Field Trial Secretary Roger Wiggins had made the introductions, the trial began with a ten minute walk to the first drive.

It was a very pleasant day in the autumn sunshine and we saw some very good dog work over three drives. Five dogs went through to round three in which one dog shone with two exceptional retrieves on runners. The trial was declared over and we made our way back to the farmhouse for the awards.

1<sup>st</sup> Clare Baker with Arcklebear's Crested Ten  
2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Aston with Balibuntal Panama  
Gun's Choice Clare Baker with Arcklebear's Crested Ten.

Well done Clare and Chris, and thanks to everyone who entered.



Kelly Stringfellow  
Assistant Field Trial Secretary

## **First Time for Everything!**

I was quite a late starter in the dog world. My family always had cats and I spent my childhood playing with neighbours' dogs and dreaming of owning a beautiful Golden Retriever. At 42 years of age I brought home my first Golden Retriever puppy, Bonnie. During her lifetime, we joined a dog display team and performed with them at Crufts, Discover Dogs and many other events. We travelled with Bonnie in France and Switzerland, took her up cable cars, on canal boats, steam trains, canoes and lots more. We decided to try Gundog training with our next puppy. Thank you Wye Valley Retriever Club for your patience and understanding with our lovely Broden - a wonderful character who was never destined to be a Gundog but has turned out to be one of the best Pets as Therapy Dogs ever and one of the nicest dogs in the world.

So now we come up to the present day and my life with Flynn, a working Golden who is cleverer than me and came with most gundog knowledge already wired in his brain! After a couple of great years winning some rosettes and trophies in working tests and making some lovely friends, we have just taken part in our first Field Trial. I was glad the Club had a defibrillator in their first aid kit because I was so nervous I thought my thumping heart would stop! A couple of lovely retrieves then it all went wrong and we were out. But we have learned a

lot and had a lovely day with lovely people. Two years ago I thought I would never get the hang of all this gundog stuff. Now I'm loving it and hope any new members to the Club who are new to the gundog world will persevere with their training and get as much fun from it all as I have. I've still got a lot to learn but can't wait to enter some more working tests in 2018.

Chris Peers



Flynn by the truck and Broden proving he CAN do it (if he wants to!).

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## Can You Help?

### COME AND JOIN OUR MERRY BAND OF HELPERS

Help is always needed at our events and you could join us in making them enjoyable for all. We offer a free lunch and a bottle of wine at most events if you volunteer as a steward, dummy thrower, tea maker etc. We also need photographers to record our events.

Please contact any of the Committee Members - their contact details are on page 1. Helping at our events is a good way of getting to know everyone and make friends in the Club and you will be able to watch the dogs work and pick up some hints.



## **Jennifer Shaw** **ARTIST**

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