



www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

Kennel Club No. 2045

Newsletter 2022



Kennel Club Reg 2045

Welcome to your 2022 edition of the Wye Valley Retriever Club Newsletter. My thanks go to my husband, Robin, who has helped put it all together.

The Committee wishes our members, their families and their dogs a happy and healthy 2022. Let's hope the recent spikes in Covid cases peak very soon and we can continue to enjoy the things we love in good health without any undue restrictions and concerns.

The Newsletter is issued free to all our members registered for the year 2021 to 2022 - our membership year runs from 1st February each year – and to new members joining in 2022.

We do hope you find the Newsletter informative and interesting. We have aimed to give information about the Club, information about the events the Club is planning and the events which took place in 2021.

Chris Peers – Secretary

6 January 2022

Wye Valley Retriever Club Committee 2022

Mr Luke Thompson-Coon, President	Tel: 01432 850528
Mr Terry Dukes, Vice President	Tel: 01568 797367
Ms Elizabeth Davies - Chairperson	Tel: 07810 567417
Mr Michael Gough – Vice-Chairman	Tel: 07974 666835
Mrs Christine Peers - Secretary	Tel: 01432 860584
Mrs Nicola Pointer – Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Tel: 01432 274613
Mrs Anna Crampton - Field Trial Secretary	Tel: 07976 842245
Mrs Sarah Akehurst – Working Test Secretary	Tel: 01432 760743
Mrs Jean Tidmarsh - Training Secretary	Tel: 01432 274527
Mr Morton Redpath	Tel: 01885 482211
Ms Victoria Ash	Tel: 07305 495773
Mrs Veronica Harris	Tel: 07597 949661
Mr Steve Lax	Tel: 07792 630177
Mr Sean McGrath	Tel: 07973 248087
Mr Tony Griffiths	Tel: 01432 350852

Dates for Your Diary 2022

Tuesday 22 nd March	Annual General Meeting
Saturday 16 th April	Training Assessment Day at Westhide
26 th April to 14 th June	Training at Westhide – 8 week course
Saturday 16 th July	End of Term Test & Fun Day
Friday 12 th August	End of Term Annual Dinner
Friday 4 th November	16 dog Novice Field Trial – Dunclent

Dates for our second Field Trial and our two Working Tests have still to be confirmed at the time of going to press. The dates and venues will be posted on our website so please look at our website for the latest information.

The Field Trial Training Day and Field Trial schedules and entry forms will be sent to members and posted on our website and Facebook.

Please do check the website and Facebook regularly for details of our events. There is an entry form for working tests printed on the centre pages of this newsletter. If you require further copies, please photocopy it or download it from our website.

Social Media and Website

Wye Valley Retriever Club are on Facebook. We regularly update our Facebook site with posts containing news, reports, photos and requests. Please visit us and like our posts and photos.

Wye Valley Retriever Club have a website

www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

You will find on our website

- a brief history of the Club
- information on forthcoming working tests and field trials including entry forms and schedules
- Conditions of Entry for our working tests and field trials
- results of working tests and field trials
- our Data Protection and Privacy Notice
- membership application form and standing order form
- our Rules and Regulations
- our Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessment

We hope you will take a few moments to visit our website and use it as a source of valuable information about the Club.

Contact Us

Wye Valley Retriever Club can be contacted by email at:

info@wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

One of our Committee will be pleased to respond to your emails.

If you are unable to email us or unable to access information on our Facebook site and website, please phone our Secretary and we can arrange to get you the information you require.

Membership Fees 2020

	Single	Joint	Junior
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 Courses 2022

Wye Valley Retriever Club will be holding their usual training classes again in 2022 for handlers and their dogs. Our experienced trainers aim to give help, guidance and advice individually to dog handlers who wants to improve the way they interact with their dogs, whether for picking up, competing in working tests and field trials or just for fun. Training takes place in small groups of up to six arranged in accordance with ability – puppy (up to 18 months old at the end of the course), foundation, intermediate, novice, and open class.

Our trainers are volunteers and the guidance and advice they give for gun dog training is based on their personal experiences and achievements

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. We reserve the right to offer your training place to someone else if you miss two lessons without notifying your trainer of a valid reason. There will be no refund of training fees.

If you can commit to dummy throwing at a class for the whole 8 week training course, your training fee will be waived – see training application form for further information. Minimum requirement for dogs in training are as follows:

- Walk to heel on a loose lead without pulling
- Simple recall
- 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 attain this standard.

Training classes take place at Westhide Estate, about five miles north east of Hereford. Please contact us if you need directions.

Training starts with an assessment for new members so we can judge which trainer and class is most suitable for you and your dog. This will take place on Saturday 16th April at Westhide.

The classes run for eight weeks on Tuesday evenings from 26th April to 14th June at Westhide – an 8 week course.

There will be an End of Term Test and Fun Day for those who have completed training on Saturday 16th July.

Please let us know if you want to take part in our training classes. You can contact us by email or phone our Training Secretary. You will be made most welcome and we are sure you will find the classes enjoyable and instructive.



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The advertisement features a collection of dog training equipment. On the left is a red blank firing pistol. Next to it is a row of ten colorful training dummies in various colors (orange, black, red, green, white, dark green, pink, purple, light green). To the right of the dummies is a set of whistles in various colors (orange, green, black, red, yellow, black). Below these are dummy launchers, a lead, a pheasant pelt, rabbit dummies, and a lite launcher on a tripod.

Chairperson's Report

During the course of 2021 there have been changes on the Committee of the Wye Valley Retriever Club. In July, Morton Redpath had to make the difficult decision to resign as Club Chairman after holding the position for many years. We are delighted that he remains a Committee member and that he and Julia aim to stay very much involved with the Club and its activities. Thank you, Morton, for all the work you have done for the Club and the guidance you have given the Committee and the members over the years. It is very much appreciated. Morton has written to express his thanks to Committee members and Officers, landowners, trainers, and volunteers who have helped him and the Club during his period as Chairman.

Roger Wiggins and Kelly Stringfellow have also stood down from the Committee this year. They have worked hard for the Club and our members organising field trials for many years. Ro MacDonald also stood down from the Committee. Thank you, Roger, Kelly and Ro, for all the hard work you have done for the Club and all the time you have given the Club. We hope you will continue to stay involved with the Club and join us at future events.

In 2021 we were able to run our training courses and trials which COVID restrictions had curtailed in 2020. It was good to get back to a new normality. Let's hope the current spikes in COVID cases and hospitalisations soon come to an end without any restrictions.

Morton and I are fortunate to have a loyal and dedicated committee working with us to ensure the smooth running of the Club. The Committee Members volunteer their time and expertise throughout the year and we are extremely grateful for all the help they give the Club.

Our trainers for our training course for handlers and their dogs work voluntarily and give us their time to impart their expertise. They help every dog handler who wants to improve the way they interact with their dogs, whether for picking up, competing in working tests and field trials or just for fun. Thank you to all our trainers for 2021 and to the army of dummy throwers who help them.

The Club is very privileged to have had access to some very beautiful estates and farmland for training and to host tests and trials in 2021 and I'm pleased to say that this will again be the case for 2022.

Our venue for training in the summer of 2021 was the Westhide Estate by kind invitation of our President - Luke Thompson Coon. Morton and I would like to thank Luke for generously allowing us to use his land and for his overall enthusiasm and support for the Club. I'm very pleased to say that Luke has kindly offered the use of Westhide Estate again for our training course in 2022.

In 2021 we held two Working Tests at and one Field Trial at Dunclent courtesy of Michael and Jane Gough and a Field Trial at the Batsford Estate, Moreton-in-Marsh, by the kind invitation of Lord and Lady Dulverton and with the help of Matthew Farmer, the Keeper at the estate. We have thoroughly enjoyed our tests and trials on these beautiful estates. Thank you, Michael and Jane, Lord and Lady Dulverton and Matthew for your generosity and enthusiasm for the Club.

A huge amount of thanks must go to Sarah Akehurst who organised and managed the Working Tests with her band of helpers and to Anna Crampton for organising the Field Trials with her band of helpers. Your hard work made the days at the tests and trials a complete joy for everyone.

Our Club requires a large number of volunteers to run it and to organise and help with its events - the working tests and field trials, training, social gatherings and meetings - so that it can continue to provide training and Kennel Club registered events for the gundog community. I hope that members and others who read this Newsletter may like to volunteer as committee members, trainers or helpers to take the Club forward into 2022. See the note on page 24 for details of how to help.

I hope you all have a good season and that you are ready for training and working tests and field trials ahead. I look forward to seeing you all. Good luck.

Elizabeth Davies – Chairperson

Treasurer's Report

Even though Covid 19 was still prevalent, we were able to hold our Working Tests and Field Trials as usual which led to a return to normal levels of income and expenditure for the year which is excellent news.

Being able to have our annual 8-week training sessions (again bringing in welcome income) was also good news, and we hope those who participated, enjoyed and benefitted from them.

We also continued to receive new applications throughout the year which is promising for the coming year.

Once again, our thanks go to the land owners who generously allow us access to their land to hold our events, enabling us to keep our costs to a minimum.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2022.

Nicola Pointer – Treasurer

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Working Test Secretary's Report

Due to the limitations imposed by uncertainties surrounding Covid rules, Wye Valley Retriever Club held their 2021 Working Tests on two consecutive weekends at Dunclent Farm, Stone, Worcestershire.

The Working Test on Sunday 6th June 2021 was for Special Puppy, Junior Handler, Novice Dog/Novice Handler & Novice and held on a day of contrasts. We had morning cloud cover and fine rain capable of reducing clothing to a soggy state clearing by midday into glorious hot sunshine overheating competitors, judges & helpers for the Novice Test! There was a general atmosphere of cheerful enjoyment and great camaraderie.

Thank you so much to our supportive and patient judges, Jayne Coley, Nicola Rudgard, Claire Raymond and Karen Handley for enabling the many first timers to have a fabulous day's competition.

My special mention goes to Anna Crampton for having my back on the scores and producing the end results without fuss or fanfare, I truly would have been lost and in a total pickle without her.

The winners were as follows: -

Results – Special Puppy

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Cornstraw Drake of Flypatch	Tim Brain
2 nd	High Roost Beech of Flypatch	Tim Brain
3 rd	Merakibea First Hope	Tucker Munday
4 th	Tweedshot Firecracker	Sid Davis
C of M	Ashport Kendra	Veronica Harris
C of M	Cornstraw Snipe	Ruth Warner
C of M	Frizelwood Sharpes Express	Simon Pullen



Special Puppy Winners with Judges

Results – Junior Handler

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Macmillaine Luna Lady	Nathalie Doyle

Wonderful work, Nathalie. You achieved a great score!



Nathalie with the Judges

Results – Novice Dog / Novice Handler

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Breckmarsh Emeric	Cherry Smith
2 nd	Zandawn Fire Bell	Helen Stevenson
3 rd	Turpingreen Ellis	Janet Blair
4 th	Vilendal Captain Farrell	Simone Barratt
C of M	Walford Princess Amanda	Mark Anthony
C of M	Hanans Golden Boy on the Hill	Steve Lax
C of M	Ffynongain Jacob	Stephen Meadham



Winners – Novice Dog Novice Handler with the Judges and Michael Gough

Results – Novice Dog

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Diglake Mullins of Flypatch	Tim Brain
2 nd	Naughtland Clover	Victoria Ash
3 rd	Ffynongain Judge	Mark Stevens
4 th	College Robbie of Tadmarton	Tony Orchard
C of M	Breckmarsh Emeric	Cherry Smith
C of M	Hawksthorn Explorer	Lisa Harris



Winners – Novice Dog with the Judges and Michael Gough

The Working Test on Saturday 12th June, 2021 was for Puppy, Veteran and Open dogs. It was an incredibly hot day for competitors and dogs alike so the presence of lovely ponds was very much appreciated.

Our judges, Phil Bruton, Lisa Harris, Charlotte Earnshaw and Haydn Willmott frizzled heroically in the service of a wonderful day's competition; you deserved a medal! Thank you too, Rob Peers, for doing your usual efficient job on gathering the scores together.

The results were as follows:

Results – Puppy

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Cornstraw Snipe	Ruth Warner
2 nd	Kilpen Magmam	Killy Pennell
3 rd	Cornstraw Drake of Flypatch	Tim Brain
4 th	Frizelwood Sharpes Express	Simon Pullin

Results –Veteran

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Chishillhyde Lewis	Mary Jarrod
2 nd	Wyenor Golden Delicious	Nicky Waddington
3 rd	Frizelwood Ebony	Simon Pullin
C of M	Slipside Ebony	Paul Green



Veteran winners with Judges and Michael Gough

Results – Open

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Maderablanca Amarillo	Stephen Le Voi
2 nd	Turpingreen Acuna of Corsemalzie	Carol Probert
3 rd	Nobsquinton Nettle	Claire Raymond
4 th	Killyrudden Surefoot of Flypatch	Tim Brain
C of M	Gooseberry Hill Gus	Terry Dowman



Open winners with Judges and Michael Gough

Thank you so much to the landowners of Dunclent Farm, Mr & Mrs Michael Gough. The venue is awesome and you not only provided it but helped in so many ways to contribute to the smooth running of the day and the wonderful atmosphere.

Thank you to all the judges for setting great tests and giving up your time to help our club. Thank you too to Skinners for your sponsorship. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Morton & Julia Redpath who put in the heavy spadework of getting judges and setting tests for both working tests, it was the foundation stone of two great days of competition. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the helpers without whom we would be unable to run the competitions.

Sarah Akehurst - Working Test Secretary

Field Trial Secretary's Report

This is my first time being a field trial secretary and I did have reservations about taking on the role! The support of my committee has been amazing, however, and I have been very pleasantly surprised at how people have stepped forward to help at our trials. Thank you to Roger and Kelly who have looked after our field trials expertly for so many years and were very kind in handing over all the information I needed.

I think our club deserves a huge pat on the back when I hear the horror stories from others in my role about lack of help. Everyone who has helped, in whatever way, has my very grateful thanks. I hope you enjoyed watching the dogs work as much as I did, and maybe even learned from it to help your own trialling aspirations. Thank you.

Of course, we are very fortunate indeed to have two very supportive landowners, Michael and Jane Gough at Dunclent, and Lord and Lady Dulverton at Batsford. Many clubs find it very hard to get suitable ground at all and I believe competitors enjoy going to a proper, well run, shoot. Our thanks go to them too and their keepers who work so hard for us.

Thank you too to our judges and guns, and to Skinners for their continuing support.

Well done to our winners. I hope everyone has had a good season. I look forward to next year, keeping my fingers crossed we are not still having to deal with Covid issues!

I've had Flatcoated Retrievers for about 30 years now. My relationship with the breed came about by accident – Kingsland Sawmills were building me stables and the company's owners, Peter and Charlotte Drake, brought their two, Hoover and Sweep, to site and I fell in love! Just as well I have lots of patience and a sense of humour.... I pick up with my dogs, and have competed in tests and a few trials, and done a bit of showing too. I've helped a lot at tests and trials. I've been a member of WVRC for nearly 20 years and have served on the committee as treasurer for over half that time, taking a break recently before I was asked back, to be Field Trial Secretary this time.

Anna Crampton – Field Trials Secretary

Dunclent Novice Field Trial 5th November 2021

We held our sixteen dog novice field trial on Friday 5th November 2021 at Dunclent Farm, Kidderminster, by the kind invitation of Michael and Jane Gough. We are extremely grateful to them and their family for their very generous hospitality and support, and for all the hard work they contribute to the successful running of the trial.

We'd like to thank Michael's daughter Helen for moving the horses around so we could use the field with a shelter.

Our judges were Mr Tim Brain (A), Mr Hayden Willmott (B), Mr Leigh Jackson (NP) and Mr Dave Kirkby (NP).

Chief Steward was Iris Wright, judges' stewards were Julia Redpath and Sid Davis.

Game carriers were Moira Charlesworth and Nicky Pointer. Dale Pointer carried the red flag. Marking birds down were Terry Dukes, Steve Lax, Paul Egginton and Sue Goring. Official pickers up were Rod and Kelly Davies and Chris Peers.

Catering was provided by Sarah Akehurst. She did an amazing job with her "field kitchen".

The guns were Michael Gough, Morton Redpath, Stan Howes, Patrick Kennedy, Guy Needham and Martin Needham. Not much got past them!

Steward of the Beat was Mark Nicholls. His team presented birds excellently over the guns and were very patient between the drives. Mark has been really helpful to us, both at this trial and the working test we held at Dunclent earlier this year – thank you very much Mark.

There were three drives, Coppice Piece, Tin Hut and Seventeen Acres, the last presenting the most challenging being a field of young rape just tall enough to keep a pheasant well hidden - and marking was very difficult in the absence of any helpful tall weeds!

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed to the day and to our sponsors Skinners for their support.

The results were as follows:

	Name of Dog	Handler/Breeder/Owner
1 st	Olivestone Lady Marmalade (Labrador bitch, born 14/04/2016, by Fernflight Morris of Jinkster ex Olivertash Mavis)	Karen Pinker
2 nd	Millerise Jemima (Labrador bitch, by FTCH Jagdens Gander ex Studebaker Allegro of Millerise)	Janice Miller
Guns' Choice	Olivestone Lady Marmalade	Karen Pinker

Many congratulations to Karen and Janice.



On the left, our guns and prize winners; on the right our judges



Our winner - Dunclent Novice Field Trial



Paul Egginton marking a photographer!



Jane Samson and Jackie Martin



Killy Pennell and Chrissie Thomas



Sarah Akehurst at the mid break



Pickers Up Chris Peers and Rod Davies with Flynn taking a keen interest!



Michael Gough taking a break.

Batsford Open Field Trial 14th December 2021

We held our twelve dog open field trial on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at Boram Home Farm, Batsford Estate, Moreton-in Marsh, by the kind invitation of Lord and Lady Dulverton. We are extremely grateful to them for their very generous support, and also to keeper Matthew Farmer for all the hard work he contributes to the successful running of the trial.

Our judges were Mr Brian Barker (A), Mr Steve Richardson (A), Mrs Kim Jinks (B) and Dr Nicola Reynolds (B).

Chief Steward was Iris Wright, judges' stewards were Phil Bruton and Claire Raymond.

Game carriers were Cherry Smith (who commented this was a lot less nerve-racking than taking part in a trial, as she had done at Dunclent!) and Sean McGrath. Sue Hallett carried the red flag. Marking birds down were Pete Bradford, Paul Egginton and Steve Lax, with David Latham, our reserve, helping with this vital job after the first drive. Official picker up was Killy Pennell.

Sid Davies and Jean Tidmarsh had both cooked for the trial and Veronica Harris looked after everyone's food and drink needs on site (and washed up afterwards – come on boys, time you demonstrated your skills with a tea-towel!!), as well as being our Covid Safety Office for the day.

The guns were Paul Gillet, Martin Parkinson, Richard Prior, Mark Turnball, Tom Whitehouse and Roger Wiggins. Steward of the Beat was Matthew Farmer. His team of beaters and the guns did an excellent job and there were plenty of partridge and pheasant for the judges to use. They are also to be thanked for their patience while the dogs were tested. A further thank you to Matthew for organising two trailers for us to travel in, to help everyone keep a bit more distance in view of the Covid situation.

There were two drives, with the birds mostly falling into rape. The day was dry, thankfully, and being still, there was a comment about lack of scent to help the dogs. The best dogs showed methodical hunting, keeping to the correct area. Low sun during the second drive did not help marking!

The camaraderie among the competitors was really impressive and helped to make the day more pleasurable. Even the beaters seemed to enjoy watching the dogs work, even though there had been four trials there recently.

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed to the day and to our sponsors Skinners for their support.

The results were as follows.

	Name of Dog	Handler/Owner
1 st	Drakeshead Drew of Llangynidr (Labrador dog, born 19/07/2017, by FtCh. Artistryn Ulrich ex Drakeshead Adell, bred by Sandra Halstead)	Nigel Probert
2 nd	FtCh. Lendown Gorse of Wadeshot (Labrador dog, born 07/05/2014, by Levenghyl Cyber Star Of Higgscroft ex FtCh. Brockweir Barley, bred by Mr & Mrs Flood)	Roger Wade
Guns' Choice	Idawood Heather (Labrador bitch, by FtCh. Gosberry Governor ex Chosenworth Kite Of Idawood, bred by owner)	Francesca Prentice

Many congratulations to Nigel, Roger and Francesca.



Our winners



Our judges and the final four



Francesca and Martin



Beaters waiting



In line with Steve and Kim

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR FIELD TRIALS

Please note that entrants to the Wye Valley Retriever Club Field Trials will only be treated as members of the Club in the draw if their subscription is fully paid by 31st March prior to that season. It is up to members to check carefully that their subscription has been paid. No exceptions to this rule will be made. The Committee recommend payment by standing order. Your subscription must be paid by 31st March 2022 to compete in the 2022/23 field trial season.

Social Events 2021

Training

Covid has caused so much disruption in our lives, it was good to have some normality again. The training started at Westhide at the end of April, obeying the rules by only having six handlers in a class plus dummy thrower and trainer.

Many thanks to the trainers and dummy throwers for giving up their time on Tuesday evenings.

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Picnic and Test Day Saturday 17th July

Julia Redpath kindly organised the day with help from the other judges, Claire Raymond, Terry Dukes, and Victoria Ash. Many thanks to the judges and dummy throwers who gave up their time to make the day so successful.

All the tests were fair but challenging. Everyone brought a picnic lunch and were able to sit in the shade and enjoy one of the first social occasions.

After lunch Julia led a question-and-answer session. Everyone felt they could let their hair down. As a result, there were a number of interesting discussions which can be taken forward to other club events.

Social Evening Friday 13th August

The annual dinner took a completely different format this year. Luke Thompson-Coon offered the grass area around the farm buildings and use of a barn. A local butcher provided hot joints of pork, stuffing, apple sauce and rolls. Two committee members made desserts and the group that attended brought chairs, their own drinks and eating equipment.

After the meal the Test Day awards were given out. Everyone sat round chatting. A thoroughly pleasant evening was had by one and all. Thank you to those that made it possible.



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The St John's Water Dog

I took my father-in-law to the Jet Age Museum in Gloucester last November. He did his National Service in the RAF and once - and only once - he flew in the back seat of a two-seat Gloster Meteor. There is no better place to see Meteors than this museum. It's here because the home of the Gloster Aircraft Company was just down the road at Hucclecote.

We marvelled at the Whittle W2B engine, a development of which powered the Meteor. "Clever bugger" said FiL of Frank Whittle. Yes indeed. But I think he was given poor advice concerning his patent and the Germans saw the potential where the Brits would not. The Germans copied his design in the patent and got a jet fighter into operation in WW2 first.

I digress. St John's Water Dog.

As we waited for our turn to inspect the flight deck of the Trident airliner, I browsed the second-hand books. Ranulf Fiennes's autobiography, "Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know" caught my eye. Then it was our turn for the Trident.

We marvelled at the aircraft's innovative avionics including the first fully automated approach and landing control system designed and made by Smiths Industries just down the road in Cheltenham. What a marvellous, innovative mechanical and analogue computer - so ahead of its time. "Clever buggers" said FiL. Yes, indeed.

I digress. St John Water Dog.

So, I bought the book and started reading when I got back home. What an extraordinary man. And what incredible achievements.

In 1972, his wife Ginny suggested an attempt to circumnavigate the world along its polar axis. Ten years later, her dream finally succeeded, and the Transglobe Expedition team became the first to reach both north and south poles, having crossed Antarctica, and the Arctic Ocean through the North-West Passage, a journey altogether of 35,000 miles lasting three years.

The expedition made a base at Tuktoyaktuk in the Northern Territories of Canada before starting out on the transit of the Northwest Passage. Ginny was the expedition's radio operator responsible for maintaining communications with the team. She loved all animals, and her Jack Russell terrier Bothie became the first dog to travel to both north and south poles.

At Tuktoyaktuk, Ginny rescued a stray Inuit Black Dog puppy and brought her back to England. She mated it with a Crufts champion black Labrador. There are now many descendants. Monty Don had a puppy from one of the litters Ginny bred. Ginny raised pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle and a flock of Black Welsh Mountain sheep as well as Black Dogs at their remote farm on Exmoor. Ginny died of stomach cancer in 2004. I found a picture of Sir Ranulph Fiennes with his Black Dog. The caption called the dog a St John's Water Dog. It had a white tuxedo pattern on its chest.

And so, back to the St John's Water Dog.

The St John's Water Dog became extinct in its homeland because restrictions were placed on dog ownership in the late nineteenth century in order to encourage sheep raising. The last two St John's Water Dogs, both male and in old age, were found in 1980 living and surviving in a very remote area.

The St John's Water Dogs had characteristic white patches on the chest (tuxedo markings), chin, feet, and muzzle. They were described as having a short thick coat, rudder-like tail, high endurance, and a great love of swimming. Writings as early as the 17th-century mention hardy medium-sized black dogs that accompanied Newfoundland fishermen in their boats, and retrieved distant lines or nets of fish, hauling them back to the boat.



During the 19th and early 20th centuries, St. John's Water Dogs were exported from Newfoundland to England. This trade reduced significantly when, in 1885 the UK imposed a rigorous long-term quarantine on all imported animals, especially dogs, in order to eradicate rabies. These imported dogs were crossbred with other dogs to create the retrievers. They were the ancestor of the modern retrievers, including the Flat-Coated Retriever, Curly-Coated Retriever, the Chesapeake Bay Retriever, the Golden Retriever, and the Labrador Retriever.

Occasionally, modern Labradors have a small white chest patch – known as a "medallion" – or have a few stray white hairs on the feet. This is a manifestation of the white patches on the chest and feet of their ancestors, the St John's Water Dog.

Ranulph and Ginny Fiennes. Two very, very extraordinary people.

Robin Peers

Rules and Regulations

All Working Tests and Field Trials run by the Club are conducted in accordance with the Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations (Section J) together with the Rules of the Wye Valley Retriever Club. All participants in Working Tests and Field Trials should be fully conversant with the Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations.

The Club's Rules and Regulations can be downloaded from our website. There is also a link to the Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations (Section J) on our website.



We are a family-run local pet store established for over 25 years. We are Hereford's largest independent pet store and pride ourselves on being friendly, knowledgeable and always willing to give advice on all your pet concerns. We aim to offer the best value for money on everything we sell and we have regular offers on top brands.

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We are located on Barrs Court Road, Hereford, HR1 1EG

Telephone: 01432 357745

Email: generaldogsbody1@gmail.com

Can You Help?

PLEASE 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.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact the Club by email at info@wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk or by phoning one of our committee members – our numbers are on page 1.

Helping at our events is a good way of getting to know everyone and making friends in the Club and we are sure you will be able to learn a lot by watching the dogs and handlers work.



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WVRC Items for Sale

Wye Valley Retriever Club have some quality clothing items for sale which have an embroidered Wye Valley Retriever Club logo. Please contact Mrs Jean Tidmarsh at jeantidmarsh@btinternet.com if you are interested in buying any items.

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

Data Protection and Privacy

The Committee of the Wye Valley Retriever Club is committed to ensuring that personal information is handled in a secure and confidential manner in accordance with its obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018. The Club's Data Protection and Privacy Policy can be found on their website. www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk



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Health and Safety

The safety of participants, helpers, spectators and members of the public is a priority for the Wye Valley Retriever Club at its events. The Club has a Health and Safety Policy and has carried out a risk assessment for its training, working tests and field trials.

A copy of the Club's Health and Safety Policy and risk assessments can be found on our website: www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

We encourage you to take time to read this information. If you are unable to access these documents on our website, please phone our Secretary and we can arrange to get you the information you require.



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