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 **WBCS - Working Bearded Collie Society**



Jeannie of Bothkennar
(1940's)

Issue 40

Summer 2020

COMMITTEE ELECTED AFTER LANGDALE AGM 2019

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Membership Secretary: Pat Spray 01229 716196
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Registrations Secretary: Roly Jackson 01226 382394
As Janice, above.

Committee Member: Linda Buxton 01697 321 290
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The contributed items printed within may contain personal opinions of the writers, which are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor or WBCS.

**SORRY BUT THE BEARDIE MEET AT
LANGDALE 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED
DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS,
CONSEQUENTLY, THE AGM HAS ALSO BEEN
DEFERRED TO NEXT SEPTEMBER**

The dates for 2021 are the 25th/26th September

The Committee thought long and hard and, at the time, nothing was open - B&B's nor even car parks in the Lakes. We hope you all have a safe summer and hope you will keep us up to date with any articles about your wonderful beardies and we desperately need photographs for the Calendars of the future - our back up supply has been used!!

**Registering of Working Beardies
with the WBCS**

A situation arose last year, when I was asked to register a litter of Border/Beardie cross puppies. At the time, I considered whether I should register them or not, as there were already individual Beardie Crosses on the Society's Register, and felt unsure as to whether I had a mandate as Dog Registration Secretary to decline the request. The litter was duly registered, but the Register and registration cards were all annotated in red that they were Border/Beardie crosses. In order to clarify the matter, I had it brought up on the Agenda for the 2019 AGM, where, after much open discussion, it was unanimously passed, to only register full Beardies in the future.

Recently, I have received another Border/Beardie litter to register from the same member, and when I returned the documents to them, they sent them straight back, explaining that they hadn't been informed of the 'change', therefore I should register them. The majority of the Committee have agreed that we shouldn't register this litter on the following basis:

The objective of the Society 'is to promote the Working Bearded Collie' and therefore cross breeds don't meet this description.

The duties of the Committee include interpreting the Society's Constitution should there be any difference of opinion.

Any changes to the Constitution or Rules decided at the AGM would be immediately effective, but as this was merely a clarification and not a change, there was no requirement to communicate this immediately to the members.

Roly Jackson

THE PUPPY LIST - How It Works

When members breed a litter and have puppies available for sale, we ask that you inform our Dog Registration Secretary.

All we need to know is date of birth, how many puppies are available, colour, whether a dog or bitch and breeder's details.

At this point you will be sent the paperwork to register the puppies once they are all sold. When older dogs are re-homed you can transfer the registration into the new owner's name.

We are often getting enquiries for Beardies but **OUR MEMBERS ARE NOT TELLING US WHEN THEY HAVE PUPPIES AVAILABLE** - all we want to do is just put them in touch with each other. The rest is up to the seller/buyer. The records of where the puppies are going are for future records and history of the dogs within the WBCS, it is the point of our existence. The cost is still only £3 per puppy. It is beneficial to the WBCS that members register all litters as it also gives us access to potential new members.

We often get requests from people who want an older dog, or not a young puppy, so please tell us - we really can put you in touch with someone who needs another Beardedie in their empty lives!!

GIANT HOGWEED



This is a notice to warn people about Giant Hogweed and dogs.

A friend's dog has come across some and because the chemicals in the hogweed is activated by UV rays, the dog will not be allowed out in the sun for the next couple of weeks.

Giant Hogweed can cause redness and itching, black scars that can last for years, blindness, a blistering rash that is very painful within two days, light sensitivity in skin that could last for years.

Please be aware when walking your dogs - all it takes is for them to brush up against it! It looks like Giant Cows Parsley, with similar white flowers.

BEWARE!

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Again, I ask the question: is there anybody out there?

When was the last time you contacted the Society committee, submitted a photo of your dog for the calendar, an article for the newsletter or put something up on our Facebook page?

The Working Bearded Collie Society is run by members for the members but we do expect to get feedback and support, or there is no point in the existence of the Society.

The first paragraph of the Constitution/Rules of the Society as discussed and changes agreed at the 2015 AGM:

*"The Society shall be called 'Working Bearded Collie Society' and its objective shall be to promote the welfare, interests, training, working ability, and the potential of the **WORKING BEARDED COLLIE**"*

Without the input from you the above will not happen.

The Society is administered by the committee as voted by members. They work for the good of the Society coordinating items of interest submitted by members. Unfortunately the members are not submitting any items.

The calendar can't be created or newsletter printed without photos / articles to put in them.

So, is it worth continuing with the Society? Members of the Society are also members of other Facebook pages specifically for Beardies. I know because I see items that they have put up on those FB pages. But they don't put those same items on the WBCS FB page, nor submit them for inclusion into the newsletter.

How can the Society help promote the breed and encourage others to have a working beardie in their lives if the Society don't know about available puppies and their breeding! This information is out there, I see it on other FB pages but for some reason our members don't want WBCS to know about it.

Whilst 'neardies' or cross beardies are lovely, I have one myself, they are not what the Society is about. There is no point in registering them because they are cross breeds and the Society is about the Working Bearded Collie.

The register is there to help prevent potential close relative mating. To help prevent any potential health issues. And therefore help prevent the working beardie getting a bad name.

Please, your £10 annual membership shouldn't be money down the drain. It's for keeping the Society going so that you have a valuable source of information about your breed. Please make the effort and support the committee because they can't do it on their own.

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

Clare Green

At a clearance sale, the wife of a senior judge found the perfect green tie to match one of her husband's sports jackets. Soon after, while the couple were relaxing at a resort, to get his mind off a complicated cocaine-conspiracy case, he noticed a small, round disc sewn into the tie. The judge showed it to the police, who were equally suspicious that it might be a 'bug', planted by the conspiracy defendants.

The police took the tie away for some serious analysis. A few days later, the judge phoned Scotland Yard to find out the results of their tests 'Well, we're not really sure where the disc came from,' the police told him. 'But we did discover that if you press it, it plays Jingle Bells'.

Thirty + Years of Brambledale Beardies...

A year last May my second Brambledale also called Zak passed away aged 15, trooper 'til the end. I have been lucky enough to have had the pleasure of two wonderful, humorous and very switched on beardies. They both deserve a special mention for the 30 plus years "my friend"...

I will attempt to explain how I came to be a Beardie fan – many moons ago I was with someone who had a rescue Beardie. After we split, to cut a long story short, I missed the dog, so I went in 1988 to the same place as "Salem" originated from. "Salem" was from "Salem" in S.Wales, Lynne Sharp's Brambledales.

The name Zak came from his line - "Brambledale Balzak" - "Bal" was a mouthful so it had to be "Zak"! Never forget the "Brambledale crowd" when I went to pick up Zak I - big beardies. Balthazar was another in his parentage, though I can't remember exactly the lineage, well known dogs.

Zak I lived for over 15 years and hardly ever said a word in contrast to Zak II! He barked only on 2 occasions that I can remember – the first when fishing on the west coast of Scotland when 2 otters appeared as it was getting dark. I will always remember it, same place exactly as the Sea Eagle with a camera attached started from on the TV programme - Morvern / Ardnamurchan - very remote. I heard a plop and looked over the crag to see a dog otter looking at me on its back! Anyway, the two of them came up onto the lower shore searching for crabs, etc. Zak I saw them as "large as life" for 20 minutes before barking once only, loud enough to be heard in Glasgow. Just once - how did the otters react - they took not the slightest notice! Carried on searching, then at risk of sounding a little corny, they swam off silhouetted against the moonlit reflections on a mill pond of a sea.

I used to fish this remote spot after dark and on another occasion had to help Zak I over a couple of fences, he was a big beardie of around 30 kg & aged 5 then in his prime. Anyway, made it to the crag which was 20 foot above the sea. As it got dark I suddenly noticed that there was no Zak - had he fallen in? Wandered off? I had no idea, so I decided to go back to the car which was parked next to the crofters house 2 miles away... back over the "insurmountable" fences. Arrived back at the car to see the crofter come out and point out Zak I looking a little sheepish. So he had not fallen in... the crofter then says "He's been here an hour, there's a bitch in the barn".

A retired farmer went into a BMW garage and bought a Z4X. On his way back from the Beardie 'do' at Langdale he thought he would try it out on the Motorway.

He gave it some 'welly' and got up to 90 mph. This is good he thought. Up went his speed to 140 mph.

Suddenly a flashing blue light came up behind him and pulled the Z4X onto the hard shoulder. Walking up to the driver's window, looking at his watch and said 'Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes, today is Friday and I'm off for the weekend. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before I'll let you go'. The old man looked at the officer and replied.

'Many years ago my wife ran off with a policeman and I thought you were bringing her back'.

DOG TREATS

An idea to save trips to the shops for dog treats!

Next time you visit the supermarket, get some plain popping corn, but make sure it is plain, unflavoured, just plain corn.

Only make a small amount to start with because it expands hugely. You only need a little oil in the base of a good sized saucepan with a close fitting lid. Warm the oil in the pan, add a small handful of corn and shake to cover with the oil, then put the lid on and heat over a medium heat.

After about 5 minutes the corn will start popping. DO NOT lift the lid of the pan until the popping has stopped. For dogs, do not add salt or sugar, or anything else. This will give them a treat they will love, with few calories and no protein and nothing else whatsoever.

Once they have tried and approved it, try throwing it in the air (not too high) and see if they can catch it. It's a great game for you both to have fun! It will also add a bit of fibre to their diet so don't overdo it.

If you want to make it for yourself, you can add a shake of sugar and salt for a salt & sweet flavour - but NOT for the dogs.

If they enjoy this - let us know what the dogs say!

'Have a good day.'

The only other time Zak I ever barked was when I was being burgled! I woke up at the bark / door noise and thought "That's a burglar" then instantly went back to sleep again! Anyway Zak saved the video, he recognised unlawful entry by the unwanted burglar who fled, rather than do his usual beardedie 10 minute welcome!

Zak I was a livewire though, just quiet... devious! When I I, he once launched himself over a sheer 30 foot cliff @ Prawle Point, Devon after rolling in something then successfully landing below without a blemish! He was a bit shaken but not as much as me, he must have rolled sideways when hitting the deck, it was a long way down... highest ever successful "parascend" by a bearded collie!



Another incident re Zak I is worthy of mention. At the time I was on crutches following a knee operation. One stormy November night thunderstorms broke out. Now Zak I did not like them, he would bolt and he did just that in the early hours after "finding his way out". I went out looking for him in on crutches as best as I could at 4am. Weather was awful - no Zak so somewhat concerned I returned to wait and see if he might turn up somehow... he had a phone tag. Sure enough around 10am the phone rings - it is duly explained to myself that Zak has been found safe and well having a lovely kip on a sofa in a barn 2 miles away! Talk about resourceful.

When Zak I died I went up to choose another Brambledale from a litter of six. This was the first litter that came from "Elan Jim" As soon as I arrived a little furry ball followed me around & for the next 15 years! Zak II had the Bowie look with his blue eye on black & brown eye on white. He was very popular with the ladies & knew it!

He was very popular at Deerpark Cabins near Liskeard where I work for Forest Holidays as a Ranger. He accompanied me on most of the events that I did and contributed much humour all the time, never a dull moment. Reilly never had it so good! However, his greatest contribution was the twice weekly duck race held to welcome the holidaymakers. He followed myself "guiding" the ducks down the stream, using his "herding" instinct to take out as many ducks as possible and hide them on the bank. I had to follow them, returning the ones that he hid. Well that is the theory...



Elan Jim

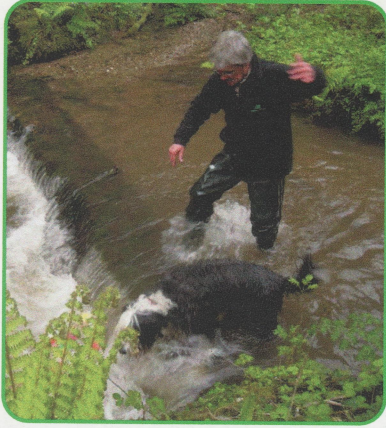
Anyway, the whole thing was a belly laugh and everyone loved it, even if they were partially deaf at the conclusion due to Zak's vocal contribution. Sometimes, days later I would come across a little "nest" of 3 ducks that I had missed... precious, customers loved it!

Zak II also had the ability, call it what you will, to fix the attention of all the crowd at the finish line by just standing in the water & barking once, what a "crooner"



Zak II did have a strong herding side however, and as fate would have it, a crofter on the west coast of Scotland spotted him when on way to fishing spot... "That's a fine dog you have there" Well, to cut another story short Zak's grandson worked the sheep

near Ockle on the Ardnamurchan peninsula before going to Tiree as a working beardie / collie cross. I am really pleased that some Brambledale Beardie blood has found its way into the working set there - both Ardnamurchan & Tiree hopefully. It was a pleasure to see his Grandson "Muirk" in action. Zak II also had another trait - he was unafraid of gunfire or explosions. Barked at the fireworks on Bonfire night, walk no problem. Zak I would and did run a mile at bangs - and when the Tobermory ferry docked against the pier wall!



Zak II also had another wonderful trait signifying his guile & maturity - he could and did distinguish between a toddler & an older child when greeting or being greeted by them. He would sit down calmly if it were a toddler, but give a livelier but controlled introduction to an 8 year old for example.

Zak II was crossed with the Wisshangar line in 2013 and I now have "Juno" aged 6 - he's a character and has the distinction of choosing massive branches to cart around - 12 foot sometimes, why not it's fun. He also has worked out how to lean a stick against his body before moving off again, both Zaks' did not do that.

Also have Zak III now, from working parents, aged just over a year. He's a cheeky chappie, very confident and fast with long legs. Unrelated to Brambledales.

Both Juno & Zak III might be considered for crossing with unrelated lines subject to rigorous genetic checks, but it's not a priority for me.

I just like beardies - particularly Brambledales!

Postscript - If you are around on the west coast of Scotland and you see a bright eyed beardie looking collie, it just might be one of Zak II descendants.

