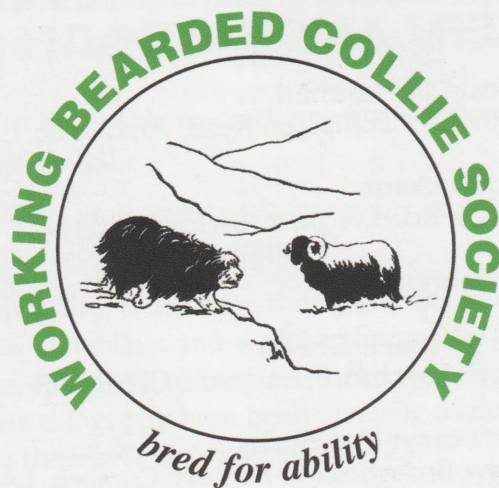




A Group of Beardie and Border Collies
belonging to a Shepherd in Crammie, Glen Cora, Scotland

www.workingbeardies.co.uk

 **WBCS - Working Bearded Collie Society**

Issue 41

Winter 2020



COMMITTEE ELECTED AFTER LANGDALE AGM 2019

Chairperson: Linda B Marshall 01539 432999
Linda's B & B Bunkhouse, Compston Road, Ambleside, LA22 9DJ

Treasurer: Janice Jackson 01226 382394
200 Higham Common Road, Higham, Barnsley, Sth Yorks, S75 1PF

Secretary: Cas Sloan details to follow, moving house

Minutes Secretary: Clare Green 0151 645 2764
45 Jessamine Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside, CH42 5PR

Membership Secretary: Pat Spray 01229 716196
High Cross Bungalow, Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA20 6ES

Registrations Secretary: Roly Jackson 01226 382394
As Janice, above.

Committee Member: Linda Buxton 01697 321 290
Sunday School House, Lawson St, Aspatria, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 3DR

The committee recently made a decision and refused to register a litter of Bearded Collie crosses bred with a border collie, on the grounds that the aim of the Society is to preserve the bearded collie as a working dog.

This has caused a split of opinions within our membership and to have a proper discussion putting your views across, we need feedback, in writing, to the info@workingbeardies.co.uk (website) to enable a full discussion to take place. Whatever the final decision is – we cannot please everyone, so the more you give us feedback, the more we can discuss different viewpoints. The matter could be raised for decision at the next AGM.

If a member has a beardie registered with the Society & crosses it to a Dalmatian (or any other breed!) do we register that as a beardie? We think not, but what do you think?

Where do we draw the line? Would the ISDS register a beardie/border cross as a collie?

What is the aim of our Society – to register any pastoral breed or crosses of any, or to try and keep as near to a beardie as we can.

There is nothing wrong with a border collie crossed with a beardie, but is that what we are here to promote?

THE DATES FOR THE BEARDIE MEET AT LANGDALE 2021 WILL BE 25TH & 26TH SEPTEMBER

We look forward to being able to catch up with everyone and have a weekend of Beardie antics!

Raffle prizes are always welcomed and any money raised will go to an animal based charity. Got one to nominate?

As we are now out of any articles for the newsletter, we enclose a sheet for you to do a few scribblings and enclose photos and let other members know what you have been up to over the lockdown. How many of you have seriously done things you have been meaning to do for years when life or work got in the way? No excuses!

Share it with us, please?

You can send it by mail to the Sec for forwarding to the newsletter, or by email to the info@workingbeardies.co.uk

The last edition of the newsletter, many thanks to Martin Summers for the long article about his Brambledale Beardies, the acknowledgment was omitted.

Christmas Covid Update

No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban.

The shepherds have been furloughed.

The Innkeeper has closed under Tier 3 regulations due to a slump in bookings.

Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating & taking a test!

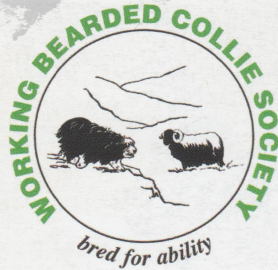


Once lockdown restrictions were relaxed, rehearsals with the brass band I play in resumed in groups of 6. We met in my garden, entertaining the neighbours sitting in their gardens, or at a friend's small holding. In September we were able to access the hall once it was 'Covid secure'.

During this time, Tessa came along to the rehearsals and sat with me, she has continued to attend and seems to find it very relaxing once she has said hello to everyone.



Susan Farrington



Working Bearded Collie Society

GATHERING AND PENNING TEST

- 1 Gather the sheep towards the shepherd
- 2 Keep sheep close to shepherd as he/she moves about
- 3 Stand or lie down when sheep have settled
- 4 Pen sheep with assistance from shepherd
- 5 Show signs of a good temperament in the presence of onlookers

"Well I Never"

At the recent Shepherd's Meet in Langdale a local farmer sold a Working Bearded Collie bitch to an Irish shepherd.

A week later the shepherd rang up to say she was too good for him. She would be better off if she was not so good. So the farmer took her back and sent him a worse one and he was happy.

Sent in by A.NON.A.MOUSE.



Working Bearded Collie Society

Advanced Test

Assessors to be appointed by the committee.

Vocal and / or physical commands as preferred by the handler, repeated if necessary.

- 1 Walk with handler off lead.
About 30 paces to include 2 changes of direction and 2 changes of pace on assessors instructions. Dog should stay within a reasonable distance of the handler.
- 2 Leave handler.
From a distance of about 10 paces, dog should go on command to its own place (dog bed, car, etc) to be decided by handler.
- 3 2 minute stay.
Handler out of sight for a short part of the time. Dog may change position but should not move away from the original place.
- 4 Stop.
With dog moving either toward or away from handler, he must stop on command and wait for the handler to go to him.
- 5 Turn Left and Right.
Can be Twist and Twirl close to handler or clockwise or anti-clockwise sweeps on the run.
- 6 Retrieve.
Toy or dumbbell. On command dog must collect thrown article and return it to handler.

“Sheepless Nights”

by Dinah Latham

I entered retirement without much thought as to where it would lead other than to begin a journey into growing old.

I had left a busy career as a district nurse and midwife with no more forethought than satisfying a life-long ambition to own a dog. Hence the arrival of Harriet the Beardie at 7 weeks old. A misty vision of meandering into old age with her as a companion by my side turned out to be only the very beginnings of the story.

What followed as we began our daily pilgrimage learning the art of dog walking, totally confused this new dog owner as I discovered that my puppy wanted nothing more than to stare motionless through fences at sheep whenever she could?

And here we are many years later with both of us thoroughly involved in learning to herd sheep and even getting as far as the dizzy heights of the sheepdog trial. I discovered that, absolutely devoted to my dog, it was an absolute joy watching her work and learning what this world of farming and training a sheepdog was all about. So much so, I found myself writing a book about it.

I've never written my own book review before... someone else has always written it for me but here are some of the comments other readers have made about the story.

'Astonishingly good', 'highly entertaining' and 'a charming book'

If you've ever wondered what retirement might be about, what shape it might take, what opportunities and possibilities it might offer, here it is... and it's all about our favourite dog, the Beardie... we're a special breed those of us who are 'Beardie lovers'... enjoy.

Dinah's book - 'Walking Forward Looking Back' about her career as a district nurse and midwife in the 1960's London, at the end she talks about getting into and learning the shepherding craft with her beardie Harriet.



I had attended a couple of those pre-retirement sessions which appeared to address firstly financial issues and then fitness.

I remember leaving the meetings being fairly sure that I'd failed both assessments. Apparently, I should have been saving vast amounts from my income since the age of eighteen to stand any chance of managing independently on my pension should I be lucky enough to live longer than the three score years and ten.

I began to think this in itself appeared unlikely, as I had already begun reading the brightly coloured leaflet that awaited me on my seat when I arrived for the 'All about Retirement' session. The leaflet seemed to assume a level of fitness that was several degrees above mine with encouragement to continue the cycling, jogging, aerobics or twice weekly gym sessions as before I left employment.

I had spent many years working as a district nurse and midwife while, as a single parent, bringing up my four children, I wasn't sure where either savings for additional pensions or time for gym sessions was supposed to come from but I guess it clearly confirmed two things for me that I already knew. I was sure I would learn to manage on the pension I had... I'd grown used to managing on an inadequate income. Also, I have an aversion to headbands and leg warmers that shows no signs of diminishing should I find I do have time to exercise.

The positives were that I had recently downsized to my one bedroomed ground floor flat as the last of my children left home. It was an apartment without stairs (great for the arthritic knees) and had a very small garden that would allow me to fulfil a lifelong dream of owning a dog... hardly an outrageously unreasonable aspiration to hold.

Little did I know then where retirement, or my dog, would lead me or indeed any of the joy that I would discover as I journeyed into growing old in a society that sees all those of us who are retired as not only insignificant but burdensome.

They say life is what happens while waiting for something else. My retirement undoubtedly appeared to have an uncertain landscape as I crossed its threshold, so yes I suppose I was waiting. This is my 'something else'.

Dinah's second book - Sheepless Nights

Is about Harriet's trials and tribulations & exploits with the sheep, both on the farm and occasional trial.

CHOXXSTART YEAH BUTT NO BUTT – BUTTON RIP

In October this year Janice & Roly Jackson had to say goodbye to their beloved BUTTON, at the young age of 15.5 years! She was one of our own breeding, in a litter with 4 dogs, all were mainly white until this little brown 'chocolate button' was born.

She was a delight to own and train. Yes, as bitches in my line tend to be very strong, we had many battles along the way, but always came to a mutual understanding on many matters!!

I competed in Obedience, reaching level C only (the top level). At the age of 10 we retired from competitive obedience and began the fairly new sport of Rally Obedience, where I learnt the art of competing in this with her. Many new challenges and obstacles to learn, Button just wanted to be with me whatever I did, and enjoyed the limelight as she loved the Rally style of competition. We reached the top in this field achieving the title of Rally Level 6 Excellent.

During our time together we represented the North of England Obedience team at Crufts achieving a first place in her class. She loved being sat on the benches and fussed by many members of the public throughout the day!

Button competed on Jersey in Heelwork to music and loved the crowds cheering for her (or so she thought!)

My elderly parents, one after the other went into care homes and Button with Frankie (partners in crime!) became visiting dogs there and the residents loved them. We did mini displays of obedience & tricks for the residents. They went round those residents who wanted a pat and the treats were rationed!

For 3 months she appeared in 'Annie' on stage at West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, and saw me through the death of my mum; it helped being preoccupied with the stage work to overcome my loss. Dad then went into care and my last memories of him was Frankie & Button both on his bed licking his arms and neck, and him giggling and all thoroughly having fun!

BUTTON YOU WERE ONE SPECIAL LADY - WE MISS YOU LOTS



Tribute to a Best Friend

Author Unknown

Sunlight streams through window pane onto a spot on the floor
then I remember,
it's where you used to lie, but now you are no more.

Our feet walk down a hall of carpet, and muted echoes sound,
then I remember, it's where your paws would joyously abound.

A voice is heard along the road, and up beyond the hill,
then I remember,
it can't be yours – your golden voice is still.

But I'll take that vacant spot on the floor and empty muted hall,
And lay them with the absent voice and unused dish along the wall.

I'll wrap these treasured memories in a blanket of my love,
and keep them for my best friend until we meet above.

*Thanks to our member Neville Barlow for sending this in at a very
appropriate time for me to use.*

Would you like to send us interesting information about yourself, your dogs and share your interests, skills or experience with other members, including photos for the newsletter & calendar?

Tell us what new things you have discovered during the lockdown, your new retirement plans, time spent during furlough

We'd love to hear from you. It's a new way of life for us all to experience at the same time! We are making history, but let's do it in a positive way and learn from each other what you have found to be good recently. It's up to you to respect your own privacy, but share with us and let something positive come from 2020 Covid!

Neville Barlow kindly sent in the idea and his 'profile.'

Retired NHS hospital psychologist with family and active grandchild! I became interested in bearded collies after a visit to the annual meet in 2011 – and talking to John Pickett about his dogs. Two months later I visited his farm near Llangollen and bought Abbey (Langburn Skye / Simpson's Lester) who was then 2 years old. We had one litter of 7 puppies from her – but sadly she died when the puppies were 1 year old. We kept 2 of the puppies, Diamond and Badger, and am looking round for a suitable male, perhaps 1-3 years old to breed Diamond. We therefore have Abbey's two puppies and their dad, Sam, who came from mid Wales.

I am interested in the origins of the breed. I have researched a little on the internet and bearded collies seem to have come from two possible areas. One theory suggests that they are descended from Polish sheep-dogs and were introduced here in the 1600's. A competing theory suggests that the Romans had a similar type of dog on the Continent, which they spread throughout Europe but which also came across to Britain in the early 1700's. Interestingly, my daughter lives not far from a village, West Woodburn, in Northumberland where there is a small memorial and picture commemorating the life of Old Hemp, who was the first Border collie, (born 1893) officially recognised from which all border collies today are believed to be descended. So the bearded collies were around in Britain about 200 years before the first Border collie appeared.

I love the bearded breed because they are so intelligent, loyal, and simply good fun to be around. They are very reliable around small children, but our three dogs do have one or two vices! They do not like people on bikes, they do tend to chase off strangers - including the postman, so I have to take one or two precautions!

I consider myself to be quite new with the breed and I am always wanting to pick up tips and ideas from those with more experience. For a short period it might be possible to assist a member caring for their dogs, covering illness or holiday breaks.

What attracted me to the Society was the friendliness of that first visit. I turned up at that first meet in 2011 on my own, unknown and with no dog and in a massive downpour, I remember that I nearly turned round in the car to go home! Within a short while I found myself chatting away with the members sheltering from the rain in an old animal trailer – and patting the dogs when the rain stopped. The combination of the breed of dog and the friendliness of the members should continue to be a winning formula.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Meet in September.

We would like to hear how you have coped during lockdown with your dogs? Having 3 lively dogs I tend to take them into the park singly. We have stair gates to separate at feeding times. Our daughter lives in the country and we spend several weeks there so the beardedies have a different type of life out in the fields for much of the day.

Beardies do pose a problem in the wet weather with their coats getting muddy. To try & make life easier I get them cut, but not too short so they have plenty with which to keep warm. I certainly think that they require quite a lot of looking after but perhaps obviously it depends whether you see that as simply a chore to be got through or a chance to spend time with such lovely animals, and enjoy the time with them.

Where do people's dogs live? In the kitchen, sleeping area etc. etc.

Let us know where your beardedies live, their antics and how you deal with it.



A farmer retired and bought a bungalow in the village. He spent many happy hours with his two beardies in his garden.

One day he got a letter from his son who was in the local prison.

"Hi, Dad, sorry I can't help you dig your tomato patch this year as you can see I am otherwise engaged".

Two days later he got another letter – "Hi, Dad – don't plant your tomatoes in the usual patch as this is where the bodies are!"

The next day the place was swarming with police using a mini digger, forks, spades etc and they dug the whole garden from top to bottom.

Three days later another letter – "Hi, Dad – you can plant your tomatoes now, there are no bodies!"