

LAST WEEK when I wrote about our Bond acting impeccably and being a good ambassador for the breed when visiting someone in a care home, little did I think that just a few days on I would be giving you the sad news that the lovely lady we visited had passed away. Diana Sadler was a hard-working BGVC committee member from 2005 to 2013. To say that she launched herself into everything would be an understatement. This included running the club shop and, latterly, taking on the daunting task of Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator, a job she tackled most conscientiously for 6yrs, despite handling some difficult situations.



A talk at Minsterworth, 2007, with Diana watching from the side

And, seeing a need to get BGV folk together in the west of the UK, she even set up a Wales & West group with a small website to encourage and welcome local people. From Minsterworth to Weobley village halls, each event she mounted was well attended where the programmes for the day were always full, ranging from grooming demonstrations and tips, to games and fun classes, have a go agility, talks on hydrotherapy, homeopathy and acupuncture and silent auctions. Her ideas were boundless and these popular get-togethers attracted members not only from Wales and the West but from the far reaches of England.

When Diana's final report was read out at the 2013 AGM, she was applauded as an unsung hero, one of the many committee members who do so much "behind the scenes" work for the love of their breed.

Unfortunately in the last few years, Diana's health problems had prevented her from travelling far. Her last judging appointment, of which she was immensely proud, was to award CCs to PBGVs at the BGVC's 2016 championship show,

But tragically it was an unexpected, aggressive cancer that was to claim her life. In recent weeks, she was moved from Herefordshire to be near one of her sons in Cambridgeshire. Instead of the letters I had been writing, this allowed me to visit her every week. On the first visit, I was accompanied by Diana's good friends Lynn Wood and Kim Culyer-Dawson; and Diana had very much on her mind the enjoyable



Wales & West fun day, Weobley Village Hall, July 2009

times she had spent running events, competitions and raffles, all giving pleasure to those who owned dogs.

It has been a stressful and sad time for Diana's two sons who are now in our thoughts. To remember this special lady, rather than flowers, her sons are asking that donation be made via this link <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/DianaSadler> with proceeds going to Dogs Trust. Her funeral takes place at 9:30am on Tuesday 19 November 2019 at Fenland Crematorium, Knights End Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0YJ. I can't help thinking Diana would be saying "Well, if you can get up early to go to a dog show"!"

At the end of next week, our 32nd club championship show takes place at Sports Connexion, Ryton-on-Dunsmore. This year we welcome judges from overseas. I now have a better breakdown of the entries. GBGVs under Renaud Buche - 38 / 40. PBGVs under Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen 65 / 70. GBGV Stakes (Mandy Dance) 14; PBGV Stakes (Jackie Hornby) 24. BIS and 4 for Junior Handling (Sue Virgo). Judging of PBGVs starts at 10am with GBGVs in the adjacent ring at 10.30am. Junior Handling will be during the lunch break and Stakes classes after BIS. As ever, contributions to the raffle will be gratefully received. I hope you all have an enjoyable time.