

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom of night sky alight.
As louts conspire to mischief cause,
and animals flee in utter fright.*

ADAPTED WITH APOLOGIES to John Keats who, one hundred years ago, in September 1919 wrote *Ode To Autumn*, later heralded as one of the most perfect short poems in the English language. Nowadays most of us live in fear of the next week or so, the dreaded season of fireworks. Last night they started, 14 days before 5 November, and two of my PBGVs were soon worked up into a frenzy. Of course some sail through this period with no problems but for those who are inconsolable, crating and covering the crate over seems the only answer.

Not long now before the Breed Appreciation Day being organised by Claire Cooper, assisted by Mike MacLaren. This takes place at Corley Village Hall, near Coventry, on Sunday, 3 November. The speakers are Gavin Robertson, PBGVs, and Phil Freer, GBGVs. For information on the event, please contact Claire on 07855 255287, clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk.

And, as we fast approach the end of October, don't forget to enter our Club championship show, which takes place on 23 November. Postal entries close next Monday 28 October, on-line Monday 4 November, the day after the BAD. This year we welcome judges from overseas with Renaud Buche from France for Grands and Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen from Finland for Petits. BIS is Sue Virgo. And don't forget to enter the Stakes Classes were big money is on offer. GBGV judge is Mandy Dance, PBGV Jackie Hornby.

We were pleased that one of the many open shows held at Maidstone in Kent put on classes for us and, having circumnavigated the closed roads to get there (including the closure of the approach road to the Dartford Crossing), at Gravesend & Medway Towns CS Open Show last Sunday our Beaujons Vagabond of Monkshams went BOB with RBOB going to his daughter, our Monkshams Memphis Belle. There was a good entry of 9 with 1 absent for our judge Peter Pask (Baronglen), so hopefully this will encourage other Kent canine societies to give us classes. Bond later went Hound G3 under Pat Pask, with Jan Bishop's Jamar Ina The Countessa winning the Hound Puppy Group.

The draft Animal Welfare (Licensing of Animal Exhibits) (Wales) Regulations 2020 is still under review and subject to consultation. It has to be ensured that any new legislation is proportionate and reasonable and does not create an additional burden on dog owners where the animals are being kept primarily as pets that are shown as a hobby. Despite this the Welsh Government is determined to enforce their commitment to ensuring the highest welfare standards and want to demonstrate that they take the exhibition of animals seriously. Of course we all know that, for the vast majority, our loved dogs who are exhibited receive even better treatment than most. They are groomed, bathed, looked after carefully and kept in A1 condition. It is patently obvious they enjoy their time at a show and in the ring; and they are contented afterwards. My only personal observation would be that it concerns me when dogs are left unattended while owners go for a drink or something to eat. It is something I try to avoid at all costs and, under the spotlight of impending legislation, this could lead to criticism. The consultation period ends on 21 November and the KC strongly urges all with an interest in exhibiting dogs in Wales to answer the survey on <https://gov.wales/animal-exhibits>. Please make time to complete it!

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@outlook.com