

Norwegian Elkhound Notes (or not). 25h August 2024.

No show or breed news, so this week is a bit different.

Well, last weekend was certainly a shock with the cancellation of Driffield Show.. I really pity the show Committee who now have to work out the financial implications of the cancellation. Who would think that 45 minutes of strong winds could cause so much damage? The photos online and on Our Dogs page were quite shocking. I do hope very few of you had already made the journey or had to turn for home half way. The video of the lorry on two wheels on the Humber Bridge had my heart in my mouth. However, it's not the first time this has happened at a dog show and I doubt it will be the last. Some years ago, Blackpool had to be cancelled or rather abandoned part way through the first day when exactly the same thing happened but unfortunately people were injured at Blackpool when the catering tent blew over along with scalding hot fat fryers. They later changed venue to a more sheltered spot. Thankfully I haven't heard of any injuries at Driffield. It must have been a big disappointment for Tanja Mortimer who was due to judge.

We have had builders rendering the front of the house. They finished the work last Wednesday but the scaffolding is still up. Everything looked fine on Friday morning so I thought we must have escaped the storm but two hours later I found photos of the woodland in the big park just below our house. There were dozens of big branches ripped off and many trees blown down. I guess we were lucky that the scaffolding remained intact. I hope no one suffered any damage. So the next Show now is Darlington on Sunday September 15th where Mr T Smith is the judge.

FINALLY, the Journal has gone to the printers – for the second time! They sent the first version back saying they needed every photo that wasn't an advert, converting to black and white; something which has never ever happened before. Every printer we've used since I took over has accepted whatever photo our members have sent and have simply printed those like stud dogs and New Champions, without colour. Karen who had the original photos was away on holiday and I didn't have any of the originals, the Publishing programme wouldn't allow me to lift out the existing photos to put into Photoshop to convert them and the way the Publishing programme did it, still left colour in. Believe me I was ready to tear my hair out until the broker we used to arrange the printing, stepped in and converted them for me at no charge, thus avoiding a long delay and hours of work. With luck it should be printed next week then Linda has to address and mail them all out.

August seems to have been a month of things going wrong . . In Asia, August is called the Ghost month when Buddhists believe the souls of the dead rise from hell and must be fed. The practice in Asia and Southeast Asia invariably attributes to it many disasters and accidents that have taken place in that period. First, our gardener smashed the glass in the conservatory door, the render started to fall off the house wall, Peter had a very nasty fall while out with Otta on the moors and arrived home with blood pouring from his forehead, then all the messing with the Journal that everyone had believed was finished. Then last week as a final flourish, my hairdryer shot out flames. Still, none of it was as bad as the Middletons' journey to WKC last week. The clutch went on their van and they had to use the breakdown service to get them and van and caravan back home. They left the campsite around noon on Saturday and didn't get home until 5.30am Sunday. Roll on September. At least the weather's supposed to improve.

Diana Hudson (norderhove@gmail.com)