

BRANCH NEWS



Our branch president, Pauline Hannam, enjoying our Christmas party!

Happy New Year to all branch members! We will be kicking off 2026 with our first meeting on 8th February which will include our AGM. We have two committee positions vacant that we are welcoming nominations for. If you are interested, please speak to one of the committee members who can help you with the nomination form.

Last year all meetings were well attended and everyone was delighted to hear about the successes achieved by members of the Branch at shows, agility and rally. Many of the successful dogs will be at the AGM and we look forward to seeing more success this year, not least at Crufts.

This year we also sadly lost some of our long standing, respected members and our main article in this edition celebrates the life of Dora (Sendora shelties) who will be sadly missed.

Thankyou to those members who have contributed to the 'bring and share feasts' and the raffle table - and to those introducing new members to the branch; we look forward to the branch going from strength to strength.

Sign up to our Facebook group ([here](#)) if you haven't already - and the branch [webpage](#). Both give useful information of upcoming events and the Facebook group has lots of day-to-day information about what branch members are getting up to with their shelties!

Contact details

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English Shetland Sheepdog Club South Eastern Branch



When: Sunday February 8th 2026

Where: Capel Community Hall, Falmouth

Hall opens at 12pm, meeting starts 12:30pm

Place, Five Oak Green, Nr. Paddock Wood,

Guest: Megan Hodgson

Kent TN12 6RD

We will start the afternoon with our Annual General Meeting. Please refer to the additional information that has been sent out.

Following on from the AGM we will have our annual Sheltie of the Year competition. This will start with a parade of Champions and CC winners who are not eligible to compete.

As always quality items for our raffle and contributions to our bring and share tea are appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

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Please note this is a member only club. Your subs must be up to date. New guests may visit a maximum of two times before becoming a member. Cost per meeting £4

REMINDER: Subs were due in January 2026

Obituary - Dora Sendall

Dora Sendall (Sendora) sadly passed away in October 2025.

Dora's life was inseparable from her love of dogs, particularly Shetland Sheepdogs, which became her lifelong passion. From her early years in West Sussex, Dora immersed herself in grooming, showing, and breeding, guided by respected mentors and sustained by friendships that lasted decades within the dog world.

Her Sheltie journey truly began with Crunchie, a returned mongrel puppy from a litter she rescued from dire conditions, who quickly became her heart dog and the foundation of Dora's much-loved 'Chocolate' Sheltie cross line.



She was deeply knowledgeable about the breed and generous in sharing that knowledge, introducing many friends to dog shows and the wider Sheltie community. Her dogs reflected her own nature: spirited, gentle, resilient, and full of heart.

In her final days, Dora remained devoted to her Shelties. Her last puppy, Shrimpy, was a tiny but determined fighter whose brief life perfectly reflected Dora's lifelong commitment to care and kindness. Shrimpy's sudden passing was followed by Dora's own the next day, leaving many with the feeling that they were simply meant to stay together. So they did, and Shrimpy's ashes were placed in her favourite toy in Dora's arms and they were laid to rest together.

Shrimpy's sister survives as Sendora Skylark, and is shown by Susie Symons. Happily, Skylark has just qualified for Crufts at the recent Manchester show. Dora would be delighted. Dora will be remembered within the Shetland Sheepdog community not only for her dogs, but for her humour, generosity, and the quiet joy she took in sharing her life with them.

From Crunchie came seven generations, including Tiffin, Malteser, Minty, Caramel, Flake, and finally Whispa. Although mated with Shelties, this line were not registered as Shelties.

Dora bred with warmth and instinct rather than ambition, enjoying the process and the dogs themselves as much as any success in the ring. Above all, her Shelties were companions and family, each valued for their character, quirks, and place in her life, not simply for what they might achieve. Although a CC eluded Dora, her puppies had a good deal of success in the show ring.



Dora and Sendora Skylark

Dora Marchant Sendall, 3rd January 1933 – 8th October 2025



Moving on up! Jo & Midna win into Grade 2



I began training my little tri-colour Midna (Hillhenry Midnight Memory) in 2024. I had previously competed in Grade 1 with my first Sheltie, Womble (Francehill Wonderboy) who had been from what became Margaret Norman's final litter, but had grown too big for show. Midna's breeder, Donna Linford, had identified Midna's early talent for zooming around and was looking for an agility home for her.

Midna took to all kinds of training with great enthusiasm. Her agility foundations were no exception and she clearly absolutely loves it. Unfortunately for me, she is very fast, so I often find

myself behind her and have had to learn a whole new way of handling compared to Womble, who was always by my side. Of course it is possible I was just faster back then, as it was over a decade earlier!

Midna quickly gained some wins in Jumping classes, but the Agility win eluded us both. In order to progress to the next grade, you need a certain number of wins, and of these, a set number must be Agility classes. These need to be 'clear rounds' i.e. with no mistakes. After an enforced break for maternity leave (mine!) we returned to the show ring at Elystari in September last year. Midna got a first in the Agility class and won into Grade 2 after only a couple of training sessions following nearly a year's break. I was delighted with her.



Hillhenry Midnight Memory 'Midna'



Hillhenry Midnight Memory 'Midna'

Having the help of more experienced handlers has been instrumental in our progress. Julia Carr, a fellow branch member (and fellow Hillhenry owner) has been extremely kind, encouraging and generous with her experience, having taken her own Shelties to Grade 7, the top grade. She even filmed runs for us in the rain to help us learn, so a big thank you to goes out to her.

There are a few budding agility dogs in the Branch now which is great to see. Shelties love to work and make great agility dogs! If you've ever been curious to try the sport, do give it a go. Speak to other handlers in the branch, or you can find information online at the [Royal Kennel Club website](#) to help you get started.

By Jo Milmine

Are you looking to add a Sheltie to your family this year? Our branch maintains a puppy register where available litters are advertised, as well as in our Branch Facebook group. For those not on Facebook, you can email our Branch Secretary, Lili Mettan-Ure for details - lilianmettan_ure@hotmail.com



A Puppy for Padruig

A fantastic programme featuring Shetland Sheepdogs in Shetland was aired on BBC iPlayer recently. In this Gaelic language series (with English subtitles), Peter meets a variety of different dog breeds, with episode 4 being particularly special. In this episode, Peter meets the legendary Shetland sheepdog, and the devoted islanders who care for and champion the breed where it all began. Along the way, he joins a playful, photogenic pack of Shelties, learns to knit a vibrant dog collar with Shetland's fastest knitter, and meets an extraordinary Sheltie helping to transform the lives of rescue dogs.

Watch the programme on BBC iPlayer on this link:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002ndcn/cu-leis-thu-a-puppy-for-padruig-series-2-padruig-to-the-rescue-episode-4>



Upcoming Branch Meetings in 2026



- 8th February (AGM)
- 29th March
- 7th June (Good Citizen Dog Scheme Test)
- 26th July (Garden Party)
- 6th September
- 25th October
- 20th December (Christmas Party)



Midna's Liver Cake Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- 250g liver (any kind, Midna likes lamb)
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- 1 handful porridge oats
- 1 large egg
- 0.5 tsp crushed garlic (optional)

METHOD :

- Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C fan. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper
- Mince the liver with a chopper or food processor until smooth, or slightly chunky if your dog prefers that texture
- Whisk egg, add to liver and mix together
- Add flour, oats (chopped up smaller with the food processor or chopper beforehand if desired) and garlic
- Mix together and tip onto baking tray. Spread evenly with spatula to approx 5mm thickness
- Bake for 30-35 minutes until cooked through and no pink remains inside. Transfer and let cool on a wire rack until just warm. Chop into small pieces using a sharp knife
- Store a small amount in an airtight container in the fridge and freeze the rest. Take out a handful prior to training, it will defrost in your treat bag