

# MIDLAND DEXTER GROUP

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## NEWSLETTER

## August 2010

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2010

**AUGUST  
SILVER JUBILEE  
CELEBRATION**

**AUGUST  
HERD COMPETITION**

**OCTOBER  
AUTUMN SOCIAL  
EVENING**

### July Herd Visit and Showing Workshop



A large group of members were joined by quite a few new faces at Church Farm, South Littleton for what proved to be a very enjoyable and educational event. It included a range of activities designed to give members an insight into the various stages needed to select, prepare and handle animals for showing. Pete, Gill and Adam Lancaster had worked hard to organise the day and had it planned down to the last detail, even, it seemed, the weather. They had a variety of their Dexters of all ages on show to act as living visual aids for our experts to refer to, and later on as willing guinea-pigs for the novice show handlers to practice on! Grand-daughter Judy Ashwin showed her excellent handling skills when she took on a previously unhalter-trained calf and brought it on to such a stage that by the end of

the day it was going round the show ring with the other animals like a seasoned competitor. The earlier stages of this training led to some interesting gymnastics on Judy's part that wouldn't have been out of place in a Rodeo. Unfortunately this was not caught on camera!

The day started with a foot-trimming demonstration and talk by Eric Sansome who uses a rollover crush. As you can see in the pictures the cows seemed perfectly relaxed, despite the rather undignified position they found themselves in.



After this Mike Bancroft and Rob Kirk demonstrated the points to look for in a potential show animal, looking at females of different ages, both wet and dry. Members were given the opportunity to judge the animals and give their opinions.

We were also able to compare conformation of two lovely bulls, a short Knightsway Bandit and a non-short Borum Applejack, and see the qualities which has made them such good breeding animals.



Then it was time for members and guests to get their hands dirty and their cows clean! Teams set to with great energy under the watchful eye of more seasoned show competitors to prepare their animals for the grand finale.



At last, what it was all leading to—the showing and the scrutiny of the judges. The animals behaved impeccably and even the most inexperienced handlers loved their moment in the spotlight.



Pete Gardner finished his birthday in style by carrying off the red rosette.



This seemed a very good time to remind everyone about next year's MDG Calf and Steer Show, giving newcomers to the showing plenty of time to perfect the skills they had learned today.

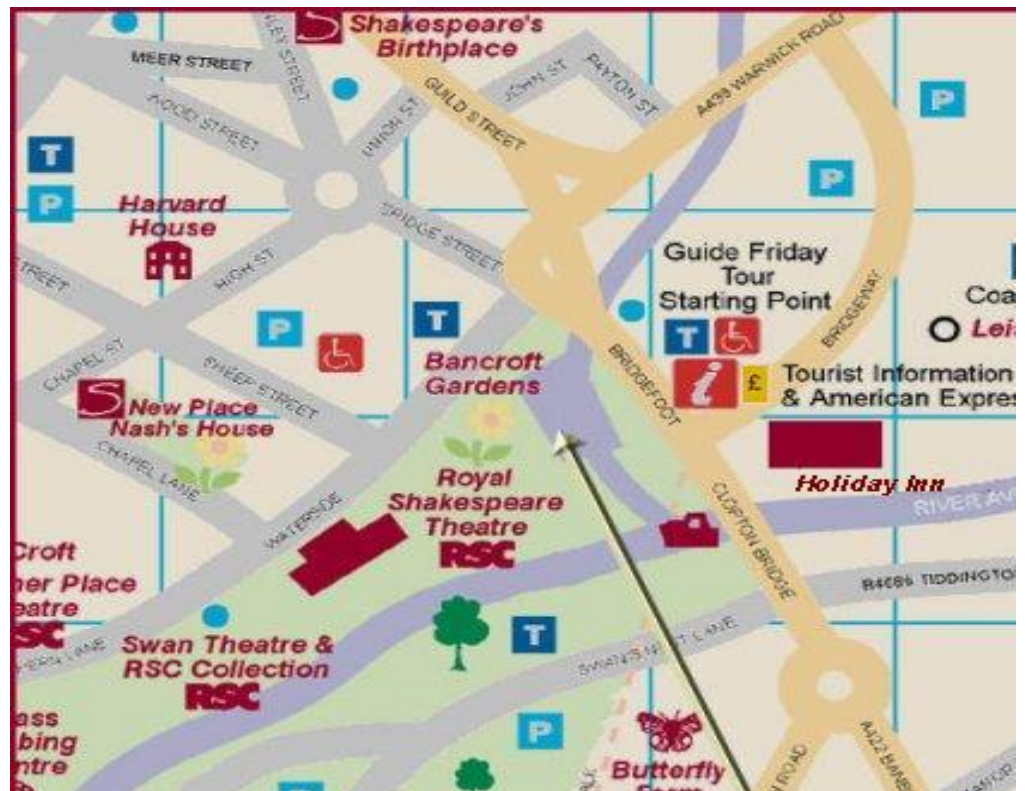
Alison Kirk spoke for all of us when she thanked the Lancaster family for hosting and organising such a great day.

## MDG WEBSITE

<http://midlanddextergroup.weebly.com>

A reminder that Ben Roberts is now our official “Webmaster” and would welcome suggestions from members about what they feel would be of interest to our group. Ideas so far include a Marketplace and information about livestock and produce members have for sale. This is in addition to the items already posted. It would be good if we could increase the number of Herd Profiles available for visitors to the site. It can

be accessed by anyone searching for information on Dexters and could benefit both individual members in our group and the Dexter breed in general. If you have any items you would like to be posted on the website contact Ben at [bjre.roberts@btopenworld.com](mailto:bjre.roberts@btopenworld.com) or tel 01527 878816



## SILVER JUBILEE RIVER CRUISE

It is hard to believe that it is only a couple of weeks away from the River Cruise and meal on 21 August. Guests should board the Countess of Evesham about 7pm ready to set sail by 7.30.

The map shows the venue by Bancroft Gardens and some parking areas. (Most parking in Stratford is metered and the wardens are VERY on the ball!)

## AUTUMN SOCIAL EVENING

This will take place on 23rd October and once again will be held at the March Hare near Worcester. The evening will take the form of an informal meal and the presentation of the 2010 Herd Competition results. Full details and booking information will be available nearer the date.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2010-2011

**Chairman:** Mike Bancroft  
**Vice -Chair:** Gordon Taylor  
**Treasurer:** Pete Lancaster  
**Secretary:** Ann Williams

### General Committee

Alison Kirk  
Abbie Gardner  
Les Digweed  
Ben Roberts  
David Williams  
Robert Williams