

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

We had such a good time at Crufts. More people than ever before visited our stand which made it busy but exhilarating and exciting! On the Saturday our presentation of the Young Volunteer of the Year award took place in the Young Kennel Club arena. **Lauren Portnall** was a very worthy winner, and chosen from 1,103 registered young volunteers. Here's what she says:

"I started volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust in February 2018, and it is the best decision I have ever made. At the time, I was in secondary school, completing my A-levels. I was due to sit exams in May/June 2018. I spent most days worrying and stressing about my upcoming exams, and I felt I had really hit a low in terms of how I was feeling. I had got myself into a cycle of doing constant revision, to the point where I was overworking myself and feeling very anxious all the time.



Valerie Foss, President of the Young Kennel Club presents the silver salver

I then saw The Cinnamon Trust's posts on Facebook, and they were asking for more volunteers in my area. It was the perfect opportunity for me. It didn't take long for me to even consider applying; I knew I wanted to be part of this charity straight away. One application later and amazing references from my teachers (big thanks to Mrs Commons, Mrs Hawkins and Ms Sharpe if you're reading this!), and I was an official volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust.



Just a couple of days later, I was matched with someone in my area; the lovely **Dee** and her adorable Westie, **Poppy**. I couldn't believe my luck, I got to help someone who was in need of some help, and at the same time I was given the opportunity to spend an hour every other day with a dog – it was perfect!



Then, in March 2018, I received another email from The Cinnamon Trust, who had matched me to another person in my area; **Carole** and her ever-so-friendly Springer Spaniel, **Ruby**. I had exams coming up and wondered whether taking on two dogs would be too much, but I enjoyed volunteering so much that I couldn't say no!

Poppy and Ruby are both wonderful dogs, very different but equally special to me. Poppy has warmed to me; at the beginning, she was very reluctant to have a cuddle but now she will happily sit on me if we settle down on a bench for a rest.

She is a bit stubborn at times, but that just makes our walks even more enjoyable as her little character really shows.

Ruby is the most loving dog I have ever met. I can be having the worst day ever and without a doubt she can cheer me up; it's as if she senses that you aren't completely happy. She always wants a cuddle, whether you're sitting or standing up! Her little face at the door when I go to greet her makes me smile every time. Carole says she barks around the time that I'm due to come as she is so excited for our walks. She always makes me smile, as when we are walking along she will constantly turn round and keep looking to make sure I am still there.

I love Ruby and Poppy with all my heart, but they wouldn't be the same without their lovely owners, Carole and Dee. I have built great relationships with both of them, seeing them almost every day means I have really got to know them and their ways. I can spend ages talking to Dee about her day and what she's up to, and both Carole and Dee are always interested in what I'm doing at University.

I can honestly say it has been the most amazing time since I volunteered for The Cinnamon Trust. It has been an experience we have been able to enjoy as a family, with my Mum and Nan often coming out on the walks with me.

It has simply been the most incredible experience that I hope to continue to be part of for as long as I can. I feel not only that I have helped other people through volunteering, but they have helped me. The hour that I spend walking Poppy and Ruby every day is the perfect escape that I needed from school, and now University. I think if it wasn't for The Cinnamon Trust, I would be a very different person today, and for that reason I will be eternally grateful and thankful to The Cinnamon Trust."



CT '100 Club

Our big winner who received £100 in December was **Rosy Archer** (Cumbria). Other winners who have each received £25 are: Oct: **Louise Matlock** (London), Nov: **Jennifer Hooper** (Tyne & Wear), Jan: **Dorothy Lupton** (Cambridgeshire), Feb: **Terrie Valentine** (Lancashire) and Mar: **Margaret Beal** (Hampshire).



Fundraising Events

Beth Missen (North Somerset) and her family held a tea and coffee afternoon and raised £57.40. **Deborah Rudd** (Shropshire) raised £53 on her stall. **Claire House, Clare Gaunt** and **Hannah Bradon** of **Westfield Vets** (Somerset) were going to take part in the Bath half-marathon, but this was cancelled due to the 'Beast from the East'. So, instead, they took part in the Ciderthon, a half-marathon with cider tasters every mile and raised a brilliant £485! **Jamie Whittle** and all at **Whitworth Vet Practice** (Suffolk) raised £130 at their charity open day with a dog show, food, drinks, cakes and demonstrations from dog training clubs along with the Border Agency. **Lucretia Lindsay** and **Moyra Finch** (Suffolk) raised £63 on their stall at the same event. **Muriel Sibree** (Norfolk) raised £60 from her lovely jewellery. **Judith** and **Laura Dranfield** (Cornwall) raised £187.60 from selling plants at the garden wall. **Amanda Brown** (Middlesex) and the congregation of **Pinner Methodist Church** enjoyed a lovely coffee morning and raised £50. **Yvonne Hasler** (Devon) sold some of our Cinnamon Trust goodies to raise £20.



Claire House, Clare Gaunt and Hannah Bradon



Moyra Finch



Colin and Heather Stepney



Pauline Grimes, Molly and Gaynor Owen



Janet Morgan

again been incredible raising £733.30 at various events including Animals R Magic with help from **Wendy Ralphs, Pam Jameson, Cathy McLeod, Pamela**



Susan Russell's stand

Colin and Heather Stepney (Dorset) raised £333 at their Garden Party and a joint sale with friend, **Donna. Sandra Mills** (Nottinghamshire) raised £25.50. **Caroline Hendra** (Lancashire) along with **Pauline Grimes** and her long-term foster dog, **Molly**, attended the Green Fayre, and raised £120 on their stall. **House of Hodge** (London) a charity second-hand book shop, raised a fantastic £500 for us from the sale of donated books. This is lovely – **Mary Dawson and Sumita Biswas' 5th and 11th Brownie Pack** (Middlesex) held a charity concert and raised £130. **Janette Dawson** (Cornwall) held a BBQ and raised £25. **Steve Raybould and Sandown & Shanklin Lions** (Isle of Wight) held a Swimathon. Teams of 6 swam in relay for 55 minutes, certificates were presented to all swimmers with medals for the teams that swam the most lengths in 5 age groups, and they raised an amazing £820. **Catherine Jesson** (Suffolk) raised £52 on her stall. **Sue Black, Lloyd Hughes and Katherine Carson** (Suffolk) raised £50 on their stall. **Jo Hodgson** (Hampshire) is one of our volunteers. She works for **Apello** who chose us to receive the proceeds of their World Cup fundraising of £24.87. **Rosie Gunnell** and all at **Village Vets** held an Open Day and raised £188.77. **Elaine Parry** (Oxfordshire) with help from **Lindsey Webster**, had a stall at the Wirehaired Dachshund Club Fun Day and raised £86. **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) has once

Chadaway, Suzanne Caine, Linda Jackson, Chris Hyde, Kevin Leneghan, Hilary Atkinson, Zena Schtyk, Heather Martin, Anita Thornton and Rebecca Gould. Very sadly, **Chris Hyde** passed away in November. **David Prydie** (Cheshire) and all at **Physio-Vet** held an Open Day, featuring a raffle, food and bouncy castle to raise £251.41, and **Susan Russell, Ed and Helen Van Den Berg** (Cheshire) had a stall at the same event and

raised £125.29. **Gill Duroe** (Northamptonshire) has been very busy and very brilliant raising £910 from her stalls at JDA Dog Training Club Agility Show, Letchworth Agility Show and a fun Pet Dog Show. **Peter** and **Jean Block** (Hertfordshire) held a lovely Garden Party and raised £395.00. **Lands' End Europe Ltd** (Rutland) run a scheme whereby they reward their employees' volunteering efforts with a contribution to a chosen charity. **Christine Townsend** chose us and we received £100. **Rachel Smedley** (Moray) and the residents of **Larch Court** emptied their 'penny jar' and sent us £12.78. **Tony** and **Marilyn Baker** (East Sussex) sold plants at their beach hut and raised £20. **Anna Hardy** (Isle of Wight) with help from **Pat Stevenson, Ruth Carter** and **Wendy Brading** had a stall at Lake Fun Day and raised £54.90. **Sheila Fellows-Turnbull** (East Sussex) organised a village dog show at 'Fairfest' and raised a brilliant £255. **Matt Normington** and the team at **Pets At Home Vet Group** (Wiltshire) took part in the Three Peaks Challenge. This involved climbing the three highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales – 23 miles, total ascent 3,064 metres! They completed this fantastic challenge in under 24 hours (no mean feat with 475 miles of driving to cover as well!) and raised a stupendous £2,276.32! Very well done to you all! **Karen Wildsmith** (Norfolk) with help from **Sue Haste** raised £39 on her stall. **Caroline Stevens** and everyone at **Orchard Vets** (Somerset) held a Clip, Clean and Cream Tea afternoon, people brought their pets in for a pamper and enjoyed a really delicious looking cream tea while waiting! A fabulous idea to raise £361.40. Another cream tea! **Frances Day** (Cornwall) and the members of **Fowey Ladies' Luncheon Club** enjoyed their get-together to raise £120. **Fay Fitch** (Norfolk) at **The Grooming Parlour** offers a pop-in nail and gland service and raised £204.



Pat Stevenson, Wendy Brading and Mayoress Sue Horton



Best in Show at Sheila's dog show



Pets at Home Vet Group



Orchard Vets... Pampering and



...cream teas



Maggie and John Martin with Rosie



Kirsteen Steel



Margaret Russell and Holly Kehoe



Wendy Oliver's BBQ guests

Maggie Martin (West Sussex), incredible as usual, raised £2,116 from various events – stalls, fabulous cream teas, Findon Summer and Christmas fairs. **Mike Solomons** and **Jan Churchfield** helped make it possible. **Laura Skinner** (Devon) and the staff at **Coleridge Medical Centre** held a World Cup sweepstake and raised £14.50. **Anna Irving-Watson** (Leicestershire) raised £180 with her tasty coffee morning. **Kirsteen Steel** (Dumfriesshire) attended Dumfries and Moffat shows, had a stall at each, and raised £180. **Christine Derham** (Suffolk) has been selling her peacocks' beautiful feathers again to raise £38. **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) raised a fantastic £509.90 from her scrummy dog biscuits and a 16th birthday party for Frank the dog. **Christine Lawn** (West Yorkshire) and the **Lupset Park Group** have been brilliant again and raised £428 from their various events. **Cathy Care** (East Sussex) along with **Angie Hubbard** and **Pat Hales**, attended the Vegan Animal Charities Fair and raised £143.26 on their stall. **Sian Herring** (West Sussex) led the **Ferring Healthy Walkers** on a walk on the South Downs to raise £110. **Margaret Russell** (Merseyside) and **Holly Kehoe** attended the Rees Veterinary Centre's fête and dog show and raised £25. **Jackie** and **Cliff Kempshall** (West Sussex) raised £62.12 on their stall. **Wendy Oliver** (Devon) held a great BBQ and raised £205. **Luxstowe Vets** (Cornwall) raised £62 from their raffle at Liskeard Show. **Dawn Bushnell** (Kent) and everyone at

Prescott House held a lovely coffee morning and raised £87. **Pat Tallentire** (North Yorkshire) and the



Lorraine Hawkins, Andrew Orr and Jo Bean

congregation of St Cuthbert's Church enjoyed a super Pets' Service on their local village green to raise £40. **Anne Taylor** (Gloucestershire) sold one of her garden planters to raise £30. **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) with

Andrew Orr, Jo Bean and her husband **Andy**, had a stall at the Arnos Park Dog Show and raised £110. **Whistlefish** (Cornwall) raised a superb £2,010 from Christmas card sales. **Dawn Riddle** (Bedfordshire) raised £70 at her car boot sale. **David** and **Tessa Kinchett** (Suffolk) have been doing some buying and selling at car boot sales and online to raise £100. **Dionne Worth** (East Sussex) raised £25 from her raffle. **Joanne Stenton's** (West Yorkshire) employer, **Sainsbury's**, makes a donation for every hour an employee volunteers and we have received £200 – great stuff! **Patricia Stephen** (Surrey) raised £77 at her tasty tea. **Kathy Beresford** (Cheshire) held a tombola and hook-a-duck event at her employers, **Barclays**, Octagon House offices and raised £360. **Ola Zaluczkowka, Ben Crabtree, Gemma Cunningham** and **Bryony Sharkey** of Haslingden High School and Sixth Form (Lancashire) held their annual Charity Day featuring a variety of stalls and raised £50. **Angie Parkin** (Somerset) with help from **Mark, Georgina** and **Gail** at **Dunster Beach Holidays** held their ever-popular Dog Show and raised a terrific £325. **Carolyn Morris** (Cornwall) has once again been selling books at her door and raised £160. **Michele Brusey** (Devon) helped **Yelverton Rotary Club** organise a lovely family dog show and raised £150. **Patricia Mills** (Gloucestershire) and the residents of **Hanover Lodge** held a Coffee Morning to raise £140. **Diane** and **Peter Davis** (Surrey) raised an incredible £1,120 at their garden party and tombola. **Tara Christie** and everyone at the London Cat Clinic took part in the Bermondsey Street Festival with its brilliant stalls, music and food and they raised £352.92. **Roz Walters** (Dorset) raised £60 on her market stall including the sale of her pineapple tea cosies! **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) and **Val Madka** raised £117 on their stall. **Jenna Tomlins** and **Megan Edmonds** (Buckinghamshire) of Unique Pets Ltd held a dog show and raised £103. **Sam**



Dawn Riddle



Diane and Peter's garden party



London Cat Clinic



Chritian Crewe and Val Madka



Glorious blooms at Stoke Golding Garden Show

Wingrove from the **Pets At Home Vet Group** (Wiltshire) raised a brilliant £475 running the Swindon half-marathon. The members of **The Stoke Golding Garden Show Society** (Warwickshire) enjoyed a very successful show featuring, among other things, vegetable and flower growing and cake baking to raise a stunning £800. **Lisa Haynes**

(West Sussex) sold cooking apples picked from her trees at home to raise £40 and **Sally Baggaley** (Shropshire) sold delicious garden produce to raise £80. **Amber Padgham** (West Sussex) and everyone at **East Grinstead Veterinary Centre** had a stall at the local May Fair to raise £315 with a raffle, tombola, photo



Centenary Drama Group

competition and more! **Barbara Watson** (Somerset) raised £150 from her lovely crafts and cards. **Alison Hanson** from The Cat Gallery (North Yorkshire) raised £24.79 from customers' donations. **Gillian Roberts** (Cornwall) and everyone at **Centenary Drama Group**, along with **CD Kids**, enjoyed performing in their latest show, 'Children of Eden', and raised £100 for us with ticket sales. **Cindy Parker-Sami's**



Andrew Lock's exhibition

(North Somerset) husband (committee chairman) agreed for us to receive £200 following the Almondsbury Gymkhana and Horse Show. **Jane Seaman** (Kent) raised £168 from her Halloween disco. **Andrew Lock** (Warwickshire) organised a musical evening and photographic exhibition. £393.50 was raised with a collection box, raffle and sale of prints, along with a contribution from friends at **Napton Music Festival**. **Sarah Chamberlain** told us that Lloyd's operate a



Lloyd's market charity awards

scheme to recognise and celebrate the voluntary and fundraising work of individuals across the Lloyd's market in London. Volunteer **Samantha Andrews** nominated us to receive an award and attended the presentation along with her partner, **Simon**, and fellow volunteer **Emma Illingworth** and we have received a fantastic £4,000! **Rachael Raine** (Suffolk) hosted her 40th birthday party, held a collection for us, and raised

£50. **Sarah Rosella** (Cambridgeshire) ran a half-marathon and raised £90 – well done! **Sheila Purnell** (West Midlands) raised £165 from various table top events. **Gillian Webster** (Middlesex) raised a brilliant £205 from her raffle. **David Ball**, Treasurer of **The Parish Church of St Wilfrid's** (Nottinghamshire), sent us £110 as the Church's charity shop '**The Crossing**' decided they wanted to donate their profits to us again this year – great! **Diane Fraser** (Cambridgeshire) and everyone at the **Human Research Tissue Bank** held a sale of delicious cakes to raise £100. **Rita Curtis** (Cornwall) raised £100 on her stall. **Becky Barnsley** (Warwickshire) and the team at Emscote Vets held a talk on emergency first aid for cats and dogs to raise £100. **Pamela Dalley** (East Yorkshire) sold seeds to raise £21. **The Friday Ladies Dog Walking Group** (Cambridgeshire) enjoyed a Christmas lunch and raised £101.81. This is brave! **Miles Semple** (County Durham) climbed Helvellyn in the Lake District via Striding Edge to raise £236.32, a hair-raising ascent and descent to match, via Swirral Edge! **Jean Langridge** (Kent) raised £25 with the sale of handmade decorations. **Lynda Mersh** (Sussex) and her husband are still enjoying their 'internal betting' on the outcome of University Challenge and have raised £45. **Sandra Davies** (Isle of Wight) attended a craft sale with her grandchildren **Kenidee** (10) and **Fletcher** (6) to raise £77. **Robert (Bob) Pearson** (Suffolk) chose us as his charity of the year for his time as Captain of the Thetford Golf Club and raised a fantastic £2,600 with various events during the year. **Nancy Morrow** (Berkshire) and everyone at **St Vincent's Veterinary Surgery** held an open day with a raffle and Christmas Jumper Day to raise £160. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £44.60 selling her cards. **Louise Cannon** (Wiltshire) and everyone at **Vygon (UK) Ltd** raised £250. **Keith** and **Jenny Bass** (Isle of Wight) raised £50 in lieu of Christmas cards. **Valerie Ehret** (Devon) held a coffee and mince pie morning to raise a very tasty £143. **Canon Muriel Pargeter** (West Sussex) celebrated her 90th birthday and raised £255 at what must have been a great party! **Peter** and **Vicky Daley** (Cumbria) raised a huge £575 pet-sitting **Poppy, Loki, Holly** and **Midge**. **Maggie Forbes-Buckingham** (Dorset) with help from **Alison Rossiter**, held a collection at Waitrose in Sherborne to raise £231.56. **Florence Croucher** (Somerset) raised



Fletcher and Kenidee at Sandra's craft sale



Bob Pearson



Maggie Forbes-Buckingham



Roche Sports and Social Club



Mariann Bayliss



Claire Fallowfield, Marlene Slaney and Teddy

£200 selling bric-a-brac and her delicious preserves. The **Waitrose** store in Rustington (West Sussex) included us in the Community Matters token campaign and raised a terrific £335. **Clarke & Simpson Chartered Surveyors** (Suffolk) raised £200. **Phil Harris** (Devon) raised £60 from a raffle in the dog grooming parlour. **Chris Nicholson** (Norfolk) raised £82. **Pam** and **Albert Perring** (Cornwall), and members of **Roche Sports and Social Club**, held a variety of events during the year, volunteer **Charlotte**

Bennett went along to accept the cheque for a brilliant £456. **Elizabeth Walch** (Devon) and friend, **Karen**, made cards and small gifts which they sold to raise £130. **Mariann Bayliss**, aged 14, (West Midlands) made paracord dog collars and sold them to friends at agility shows to raise £150 – brilliant! **Andrew Pearce** (Norfolk) and the members of singing group **‘Sound Waves’** raised £182.86 with their performances. **Nick Vigart** (Buckinghamshire) and the members of **Little Kingshill Village Society** took part in a carol singing event organised by **Claire Fallowfield**, to raise a very festive £252.83. **Michaela Simmonds**

(Leicestershire) and the team at **Chine House Veterinary Hospital** held a raffle and a Christmas Jumper Week to raise £109.82. **Lorna Key** (Essex) and the congregation of **All Saints Church**, Little Totham, held a dogs’ service to raise £65. **Jeanne Thomas**

(Pembrokeshire) and friend **Linda McCann** knitted some little decorations and gifts which they sold at a coffee and mince pie morning to raise £200. **Sandra Pridgen** (Lincolnshire) held a cake bake for family and friends and raised £73. **Kirsty Melliush** (Devon) and everyone at **South Western Ambulance Service** held a Christmas raffle to raise a fantastic £545. A past Master of **Whytevell Lodge No. 8400** (Buckinghamshire) chose us as his charity during his year in office. **Philip Gilbert** sent us the total raised – a stunning £1,500! **Teresa Gowing** (Suffolk) raised £125 in lieu of birthday gifts. **Judy Westacott** (Devon) raised a superb £400 on her stall at the Elizabethan Charity Market in Totnes. **The Brighton College**

College Community Fundraising Team – Brian, Edward, Carlson, Min Woo, Andrew, Kelly and **Robyn** held a number of different events including a concert, selling sweets and delivery of candy canes at Christmas and raised an amazing £462.48. **Liz Veasey** (Nottinghamshire) raised £60 by holding Christmas wreath workshops. **Charlotte Adlam** (Wiltshire) and her work colleagues held a

Christmas bake-off and raised £200. **Charlotte Barber** (Norfolk) raised £28 from her online dog show. **Debbie Kendall** (Buckinghamshire) sold her 'The Enlightened Hound' Christmas cards to raise £165. **Mary** and **Barbara Smith** (Kent) raised a terrific £621.05 with eBay trading and the sale of garden produce and plants. **Mary Byrne** (Hertfordshire) and members of **Watford Machine Knitting Club** held a tombola to raise £25.00. **Karen Piggott** (Hampshire) ran the Lanzarote Half Marathon in just under 2 hours to raise £215 – wow! **Hilary Larkham** (Hampshire) and the **Wicked Flyball Club** held a two day competition and raffle to raise a brilliant £370. **The Wirehaired Dachshund Club** held a fun day with lots of activities including tracking, scurry, a sausage eating race and sausage and spoon race to raise £169 - wish I'd been there!! **Louise Taylor** and everyone at the **Vale of Clwyd Canine Society** held a Companion Show to raise £100. **Chippenham and District Canine Society** raised a stunning £600.16 from their Companion Shows. **Brook Dog Training Club** (East Sussex) raised £100 from their summer party and raffle. **Elvenhome Dog Training Club** (West Sussex) held a summer raffle and raised £30. **Lowestoft Dog Training Society** raised a terrific £540 from their Companion Show. **The Cocker Spaniel Club** (Wiltshire) chose us as their Charity of the Year for 2018 and raised a huge £1,000. **Culverstone Dog Training Club** raised a fantastic £500 and, fantastic again, **Melton Mowbray & District Canine Society** raised £871. **Itchen Valley Training Society** raised £250. **Welsh Corgi Rescue Service** (Kent) raised a stunning £2,500. **Ribble Dog Agility Club** raised £200 from various events. **Ynys Mon Dog Training Society** (Anglesey) held a raffle at their Heelwork to Music show and raised £65. **Red Dog Training** (Hertfordshire) had a 'Have-a-Go' agility section at their local show and raised £53. **Severn & Avon Working Gundog Club** raised £150. **Laleham Dog Training Club** raised a brilliant £300 at their fun day and dog show. **Clever Clicks Dog Training** (Norfolk) raised £200 with a line dance evening. **The Whippet Club** (Derbyshire) raised £150. **The Wonky Dog Club** (Shropshire) raised £80 from their festive walk. **Marlow Dog Training Club** (Buckinghamshire) raised £350 from events through the year. **P.E.T Education and Training Dog Club** (Hampshire) raised £100. **Avon Working Trials Training Society** raised £150. **Langstone & District Canine Society** and **Crazy Canines Fun Dog Club** held a joint photo shoot at Langstone Village Hall and Malthouse Field, **Langstone & District Canine Society** raised £100, **Crazy Canines Fun Dog Club** raised £415.25, and everyone had a fabulous time! **Snoopy Dog Training**



Karen Piggott



The Wirehaired Dachshund Club

Club (Hertfordshire) raised £200 from their raffle. **Plymouth Dog Training Club** raised £100. **Hastings & St Leonards Dog Training Club** raised a brilliant £557.50 with a sponsored down stay (sausages all round!), fun night and Christmas party. **Manston K9 Dogs** (Kent) raised £400 at their show. **Swan School of Dog Training** (Buckinghamshire) raised £70 from their raffle and **Littlehampton Dog Training Club** raised a fantastic £1,010 for us as their charity of the year.



Volunteer Views

Our first view is from **Tiger-Lily Lee Ryan** from East Sussex who is 16 years old and was on the shortlist for Young Volunteer of the Year:

“About 5 months ago my mum and I joined The Cinnamon Trust after giving up on the idea of actually owning a dog (having being completely shut down by my dad and very adamant cat).

Our first dog was, and still is, Poppy. I’m not so sure of her breed but I know that she’s quite old, meaning that she knows what she wants! When we first walked her, she barely made it around her neighbouring block before sprinting home, which was obviously really surprising for us because she was quite slow considering her age. When we got her back to her house she shot in, we told her owner that she was quite unwilling to go for a walk but sped up as she got closer to home. Her owner explained that she thought it was probably because it was chicken night! Things became much easier, and we had been walking Poppy for 2-3 months, when we were contacted about Marley who was needing a walker and lived in our area.



Tiger Lilly and Marley

If I am honest, the second I saw that dog I felt my heart melt and pool in my shoes! When I signed up for dog-walking, as much as I love Poppy, I wanted to be able to walk a dog exactly like Marley because he’s so big and fluffy and so happy all the time - just a pleasure to be around. We walk him twice a week for at least an hour and, since we have, we’ve both slowly but surely started to become much fitter and enjoy walking a lot more, not only because we do it as a “job” but also because everywhere reminds you of the dogs you walk.

For the first few times we would only take Marley to the local park but after a few weeks of him getting used to

us, we took him to the local wood and you could see his eyes bulge out of his head when he saw we were taking a different route. After that, we decided to go to the beach with him because his owner had said that he enjoyed it there, but we didn't want to risk anything so we had to keep him on the lead until we were comfortable enough to let him off. That took about 3 weeks for us to start doing as we are now, letting him off of the lead and playing with him every time we walk him and having a jolly time with him. I'm certain that he enjoys it as much as we do because by the time we get back to his house, he is so tired, but he sits at the door and gives a little tired smile as if he is saying "thank you for taking me out!".

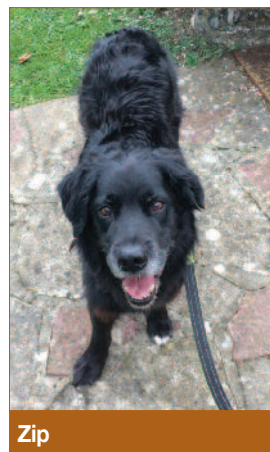
It's been so nice to be able to walk Marley, and of course Poppy. It has made us get out more and gives us something to look forward to if our day has been a bit rough or we've had a stressful week; making them happy means that you can't help but be happy when you're around them."



Also from East Sussex, **Mel Telford** writes:

"Zip is a big, flat-coated, soft and silky black retriever. When we first met, Zip was perfectly happy to say hello and very keen to go out on a walk with me. However, he seemed very indifferent to my presence. At first this puzzled me. I'm used to dogs wanting to be friends with me right away, but with Zip, although perfectly polite and gentle, there just didn't seem to be a desire, on his part, to be anything more than acquaintances at first.

Over time, as we got to know each other better, I began to understand a little more about who Zip is. Zip was found by his current owners in a dog rescue centre. Not much about his life before the centre is known, but it's thought he was rescued with his sister and that perhaps he was bullied by another black dog at some point - Zip struggles to enjoy getting too close to black dogs generally. Whenever we pass other dogs on our walks, especially black ones, I talk gently to Zip to try and reassure him that all is well. I like to think it's helpful for Zip, but actually I don't really know if it's reassuring or not or whether the reassurance itself is even needed - Zip's initial indifference to me is generally echoed in his approach to all other beings. Both dogs and people can be ever so excited to see Zip, and yet Zip more often than not will pass them by without even acknowledging their existence. Even nervous looking sheep don't distract Zip from his walking!



Zip

Zip and I have been going for walks together each week for a couple of months

now, and I'm happy to say that time has enabled Zip to feel he can be my friend. He very much looks forward to our long walks, telling me to hurry up if I stop to chat to his owners before we set off. I know that a hopeful look backwards means Zip would like me to give him a treat, and Zip knows that when I question his love of eating cow pats, it's time to drop what's in his mouth and move on. I've learnt that one of Zip's favourite places to walk is along the pebbly Brighton beaches. And Zip has accepted that he needs to stop and be still at the end of each walk, so as I can pick out all the burrs and bits of undergrowth that have attached themselves to his long coat along the way. Slowly we've built up a lovely bond between us, and I've very much enjoyed getting to know Zip's owners too, even if that has needed to be after our walks!"



Rory Swinburne with a little help from owner **Margaret** in Cumbria has something to say:

"My name is Rory. I am a West Highland Terrier known to be either highly intelligent or very bossy depending on your point of view (hope it's the first). I live in an old farm house and have access to every part of it. My food is free range chicken and treats. I slept with my master all the time he was ill but then he became too ill to live and I missed him very much. Everything else was still fine and I still had loads of love from my mistress. However, there was one big problem! She couldn't, and still can't, take me for a proper walk. What were we to do?

Hurrah! The cavalry arrived when a friend told my mistress about The Cinnamon Trust. They even put my photograph in the local paper requesting people to take me walking. The result was Joan (and Billy) and Sue (and Mark) who volunteered to give me exercise and have never let me down. I love them very much and hope they love me.

They have not just been good to me, but their help, kindness and friendship have brought so much joy to my mistress, that the deep gratitude she feels is very difficult to put into words.



Rory with volunteers Sue Crozier and Joan Greenap

Thank you "The Cinnamon Trust". You have no idea what your help has meant to both of us in so many different ways."

And volunteer **Joan Greenap** adds:

"I responded to an article in the local paper, regarding a walker for Rory. I contacted

The Cinnamon Trust, went through the registration process and was delighted to be accepted. Norman and Margaret were very friendly and Rory was a delight to take out. Eventually, my husband Billy joined me on the walks, and the Thursday one was followed by biscuits and coffee. Norman enjoyed Billy's company and vice versa.

When Norman suddenly died on Christmas Eve 2016, Rory really missed him but takes solace in Billy's company and they have become very close. Because Margaret's children live in different parts of the country we, with her neighbours, keep an eye on her and the Monday walk has turned into a day out for us, Rory and our girl Tilly (a Westie-Pom cross) giving Margaret a rest day. Thank you, Cinnamon Trust, for introducing us to Margaret and the wonderful Rory."

Not to be left out, **Sue Crozier** writes:

"I responded to The Cinnamon Trust advert because it's great to feel that helping walk Rory goes some way to ensure he gets to stay in his loving home. Also, as I was new to the village, it gave me a chance to get out and meet lots of different people during our walks. Rory is a loving dog with a great personality and Margaret could not have been more welcoming or friendly and I really look forward to catching up each week. I always come away smiling and cheerful. I am very grateful to have them both."



Another of our Young Volunteer contenders was **Emily Spooner** (age 17) from West Sussex who says:

"I'm in my final year of Sixth Form and currently I walk two dogs for The Cinnamon Trust. I have been walking both once a week for just over a year now.

I started volunteering to meet some dogs because unfortunately I'm not allowed one of my own, but it has become about so much more than that. I believe I have not only developed bonds with the dogs I walk, but also I have developed new friendships with their owners. And I think that's what makes The Cinnamon Trust really stand out as a unique charity, because not only do the owners get to keep their animals when they are no longer able to walk them, but they also have someone they can talk to on a regular basis.

I walk two dogs for two different owners. A 3 year old Westie called Mia, and a nine year old Parsons Jack Russell called Brook.

Mia is the sweetest little dog I have ever had the privilege to meet. Until, that is, you meet a truck or a scooter, as then she goes crazy. She hates them with a



Emily and Mia

passion and is always trying to find one to fight: she has made many people jump! She loves to look for trouble and after she's seen one truck she's pulling at the lead with her ears pricked forward on the lookout for more to bark at. When she does this her head looks a bit like an owl from the back. She has improved slightly though, as bikes no longer bother her like they did when I first started walking her. She's also very nosy and likes to stand up and peer over any short walls we come across, she will also jump up on her hind legs and do a meerkat impression. When you talk directly to her she likes to mouth in excitement as though she's trying to talk, she doesn't bark though, just opens and shuts her mouth! She especially does it when she wants to

get going and I spend too long talking to her owner, Ann, before the walk. After the walk she always wants cuddles and runs in and out bringing me toys to inspect and play with.



Emily and Brook

Brook is a very mischievous dog and very opinionated. When I take her for walks I am never quite sure whether it's me leading her or the other way round as when I start to go in a direction she doesn't like, she just sits own and refuses to budge. Sometimes she will lie down asking for belly rubs (which I am more than happy to oblige), and again refuses to move. To figure out which way she wants to go you normally have to walk in every direction which probably looks very stupid to anyone watching, but eventually you figure it out and she moves again, often the way that will get her home fastest! If you try to cajole her in the direction you want, she avoids eye contact and it's so cute how she just looks at the floor to avoid your gaze because she knows

she's being naughty. Occasionally, I have had to actually pick her up and carry her past the point that she has stopped, this can even be a dead end! If she ever gets hold of a tennis ball, you are never getting it back, no matter how much pleading you do and again, she avoids eye contact. She is also the greediest dog and is always trying to look in your pockets to see whether you have any treats for her, which luckily I don't carry.

Unfortunately, Brook hasn't been well recently and in the summer was diagnosed with diabetes, her owner has to inject her twice a day with insulin. She has, in the last month, developed cataracts in both her eyes and so her vision is very badly impaired. Her owner, Jim, is looking for her to have an operation to remove them. But walking is a bit more difficult at the moment, and she requires a lot of reassurance when we're walking as she likes to know where we are. I parked my car in a different place last time I walked her and it meant that she didn't realise

she was home, so sat down and refused to go in! This is something I am going to have to be very aware of, I will need to make sure that I park in the place she expects my car to be, and also I need to be her eyes regarding obstacles she would normally avoid.

Another key part of volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust is the relationship you naturally build with the dogs' owners. Over the past year, I have been able to get to know two wonderful people, Ann and Jim. Ann is Mia's owner and she is always interested in what I have been doing over the week, she is interested in my future hopes and dreams of becoming a vet. She always talks to me about her grandchildren, who live with her during the holidays, and how they are getting on at University.

Jim lives on his own, and he always enjoys a conversation about Brook and football. He supports Arsenal which is the team my youngest brother supports. He reminds me a lot of my Grandad. He's devoted to Brook and I really hope that the operation to restore her sight is successful.

I really value my volunteering experience with The Cinnamon Trust. It has opened my eyes to the importance of dogs to older people who may not have contact with anyone else. They are their lifeline, and I am grateful for the opportunity I have to help them keep their best friend with them."



Katie Jones (age 20) in Essex was also shortlisted for Young Volunteer of the Year, she writes:

"I have been walking Charlie for Jack since 2015, and walked him every week until recently when I changed the time that I went to 9am, in order to feed him and give him his insulin, as well as eye drops.

Although he is an older dog, he still loves to play with his ball and brings it over to me some mornings. I have also taken Charlie to the vet a few times for his diabetes check-ups as it is difficult for Jack to do this himself. Jack has become more of a family friend over the last three years and we invited him over for Christmas dinner in 2016 and took him around the local area to see some houses with lights on, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Last year, we even looked after Charlie for a few days whilst Jack was in hospital, and I took him back on his birthday as well as some cake!

I have only just started walking Maisie, and as she is only a young dog, she loves to run and play. When I get to the door to walk her, she jumps up to say hello and gets excited!"

Cadi Perry (age 20), another candidate, this time from Cornwall and she says:



Cadi with Max

"I started volunteering for The Trust nearly two years ago, when I was 18. My first match was Max, and around 3 months later I matched with Sid. I walk them both once a week, sometimes twice depending on my working hours.

Max is a very boisterous Boxer who gets extremely excited to get out of the house for his walk. Max and I grew a bond very quickly and his owner, Barry, says that he just has to mention my

name and Max waits by the door for me to arrive. Although Max isn't always the best behaved dog around, he is the goofiest boy and extremely loyal and loving towards to his owner and I wouldn't change him for the world! Seeing how happy both Max and Barry are when he's had a long walk makes it worth it.



Sid

Sid is a Border Collie cross Spaniel who is full of energy, despite being slightly older. As soon as he gets out the door he doesn't stop for the whole time we're out. He loves his walks, and his owner is grateful that's he's able to go out for the long outings that she can no longer manage. His favourite thing to do on a walk is diverting to run through every puddle he comes across.

The bond I have with the dogs and their owners is amazing. I always look forward to both the walking and the chats I get to have. Volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust has increased my confidence when talking to new people, and has kept me active on my days off work. The Trust does an amazing job and I'm so proud to be a part of it. It is a lovely feeling knowing that I am making a personal difference in someone's life."



Helen Joslin sends her view from Essex:

"I heard about The Cinnamon Trust from a good friend of mine, Edwina Rawson. I loved what I read online and signed myself and my husband up as volunteers.

I'm allergic to pet hair, so I can't have any animals indoors. I have two very spoilt rabbits who have a huge palace with heating and cameras in our garden.

Pip was the first dog assigned to me around a year and a half ago and I instantly fell in love with him. His owner Margaret is lovely. They both adore each other but because Pip is so young, he needs decent walks. Originally, I planned to do one walk a week; I currently walk him three times! He had a fairly short lead so I upgraded him to an extendable one for our walks. I do a fair bit of running so I make sure that he runs and feels free even though on the lead. He is so determined when he wants to go one way and you another. He loves his chicken treats at the end of his walk.

The picture is with my good friend and professional dog walker, Metha's charges. Pip loves the company and we try and get together regularly. Margaret calls them his "play group". We recently had a day in her garden where she had six dogs and Pip. He had a brilliant time and had so much space to run and play off lead but secure and safe. I tend to do the weekday walks on my own however, on a Sunday, my husband comes along too. For my birthday, I asked if I could take Pip for the day. I had a morning with my rabbits, and then my husband, son and I took Pip for a long walk and dinner in a dog friendly pub. Pip loved his doggy dinner!



Pip (the blonde!) and friends

I'm self-employed and tell all my friends and customers about The Cinnamon Trust. It's such an amazing charity."



Jamie Robus' (Wiltshire) view just had to be in for the joyful pictures!

"I've been walking Cheney for his owner Terry since May. He's a 10 year old Staffie and a delightful, happy little lad. He is a real joy to walk as you can see from the photos.

Everyone knows Cheney in his local area, as





in the summer he sits in his front garden with Terry and says hello to all the passers-by. This means that walking him is a bit like being out with a local celebrity!

Between myself and the other two volunteers, Tom and Alison, we get Cheney out most days and his Dad is very grateful to The Cinnamon Trust."



Another contender for Young Volunteer of the Year was **Kirstie Storer** (age 19) in Kent who writes:

"I have been walking Hilda for two years and Ollie and Teddy since July 2018.

Firstly, Hilda. I have developed such a strong relationship with Hilda, walking her regularly once a week in almost every weather. She has such a strong and happy character about her, every Tuesday morning she sits in the porch and waits for my little red car to pull up. As soon as I get out, she will sit there barking - ready for



Kirstie with Ollie, Teddy and Hilda

her walk. It is so rewarding to know that a dog is as pleased to see me as I am to see them! With regards to Mrs McGuiness, we have such a lovely relationship. I feel when we have chats, she is able to open up and feel comfortable with me being in her home, and that is all I ever wanted. Not only is it rewarding walking her dog, I also try and help Mrs McGuiness personally; for example, driving her to a residential home to visit family.

Now, Ollie and Teddy. Ollie and Teddy are wonderful dogs who are so energetic and loveable. As soon as I pull up, they bark, recognising my car. It is so lovely that I am able to take them in my car as this is something they are not used to. They both sit happily in the back looking out of the window.

Their owner, Mrs Wright-Thomas, is a wonderful and caring woman who is so thankful for the volunteers from The Cinnamon Trust. Mrs Wright-Thomas absolutely loves having a chat with me, and I feel that she values our friendship as much as I do.

I am so happy to be a part of such an amazing charity and I aim to continue with this for many more years.”



Lily Tomlinson (age 17) in Somerset was also a strong contender for Young Volunteer of the Year. She says:

I was so excited when The Cinnamon Trust emailed me about the first dog that needed walking in my area, I'd been checking my emails every day waiting for an email! I was a bit nervous walking Winnie (the Whippet!) at first, as I have never owned dogs so have never really properly walked one, but as my mum and sister had come with me it wasn't at all scary! Winnie was very excited and we went on a long walk all around the village, we found out she has made quite a name for herself, being a very sociable dog. We also found that she was very happy and friendly with all the other dogs, apart from one who she always likes to bark at. When we're out walking we like to think up stories about why she likes to bark at only one dog!



Winnie

I really enjoy walking Winnie over the weekend, not only does it mean I get to spend time with my mum and sister, as well as getting exercise walking in the beautiful countryside, but it has also taught me a lot. For example, I have learnt so much about the history of the area I live in through talking to Freda, Winnie's 101-year-old owner, about the way of life and how things have changed over time, which is really interesting!

I was also very excited when I got an email about another dog to walk, Moet. She is completely different to Winnie, being a Miniature Schnauzer she is small and fluffy, with a very expressive face! I sometimes imagine what they would look like together – Winnie is quite tall and Moet could probably walk underneath her!

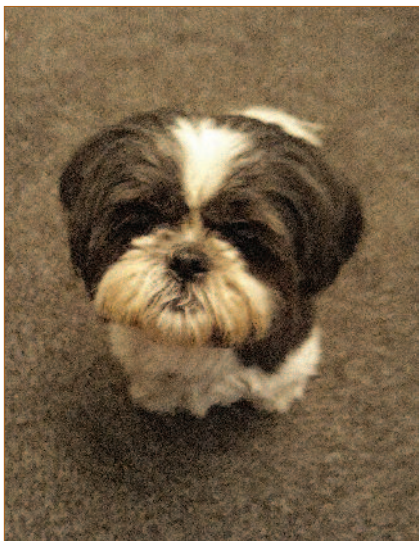
I really enjoy walking Moet on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after college as it is a nice end to the day. Sometimes, when they are not busy, my mum and sister will also come out too, which is really nice!

Dianne, Moet's owner, is very friendly. She always asks me about my day and in return I ask her about hers. Dianne is also very involved in the local community and she always lets me know about events that are happening around the area. This means that through walking Moet I have got more involved in the local community and events.



Malcolm Hardy in Tyne & Wear has an amazing tale of the small world we live in:

"On Wednesday 3rd October I received an email from The Trust, asking if I could walk a second dog in my home town of Hebburn, belonging to a Mrs. Brown



Mags

I contacted the lady that same day and arranged to walk her Shih Tzu, Mags, that evening. She is a lovely little dog and we immediately became friends and I arranged with her owner to walk her every evening after my walk with another dog, Murphy.

When I arrived the following evening the lady's first words were "it's a small world". She had spoken to her sister that morning to tell her she had a dog walker. Her sister asked for the person's name and she said "Malcolm, but he prefers to be called Mac". Her sister interrupted and said "Not Mac Hardy?" which she confirmed it was.

Her sister then told her that I was married to Trisha (Pat O'Brien) who was born and brought up in the same street as them. Apparently, Mrs. Brown was one of a family of nine, whilst my wife was one of four, and they all used to play together and visit each other's houses.

My wife had not seen Mrs. Brown for over 65 years as she had moved out of the area. When I told my wife she became quite excited and I arranged for her to visit Mrs. Brown on the following evening when they had a good chat about old times whilst I was out with Mags.

Following on from there, I was on a local chat line when I raised a query about Cuthbert Street (their old address, now demolished). I received a number of responses showing maps and names of people who used to live in that street and who knew both my wife and Mrs. Brown, reminiscing about old times such as

swinging on street lamps and getting chased by neighbours.

My wife and Mrs Brown can now keep in touch, and I will take her to visit from time to time. Volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust has resulted in a lovely dog getting regular walks and two old friends being reunited!"



Here's a lovely view from **Alison Barbour** in County Durham:

I have loved animals since childhood but unfortunately working full-time within Social Care restricts my time available to currently have a dog of my own. Whilst researching services and charities as part of my employment role, I came across The Cinnamon Trust and thought what better way to spend time with animals, and to help not only them but their owners too - such a great cause. In no time at all, I had completed the registration forms and soon had my first phone call to start my volunteering role for The Cinnamon Trust - I was to meet Betty and Norris.

Due to long standing medical conditions, unfortunately at the age of 90, Betty, is no longer able to get outdoors to walk her beloved dog Norris (10) and was in need of some urgent assistance. Although a little apprehensive at first as to what to expect, as soon as the door opened on that initial visit I knew we would get along just fine. I loved Norris as soon as I saw his big brown eyes and identifiable little white socks. He is such a soulful, caring dog and you can't help but love him from the moment you meet him. As gentle as he is, I quickly learned he is not too keen on the postman and reverts back to puppy days at the sight of a squirrel!



Alison and Norris

I have been walking Norris now for two years come rain or shine (or snow) and each week I can't wait to see them both and be greeted by his excited little face and wagging tail; we have developed an undeniable bond. We enjoy our time out each and every week and always look forward to the next, not only for Norris, but for the support and companionship for Betty too. We like nothing more than a gossip and catch-up each visit.

Alongside walking Norris each week, occasionally Betty has regrettably been admitted to hospital and in these times I have also had the absolute pleasure of having Norris to sleepover. Much to my delight, he settled in very well into his temporary home, although I soon learned he likes a much earlier night than me and prefers to cosy up in bed and snore away! Due to the unforeseen nature of his sleepover, Norris also spent a day in the office with me, much to the delight of

my colleagues and to the amusement of Betty upon her return home; possibly the best work day to date and I'm constantly asked when he'll be back! Knowing Norris is well looked after and loved is a great relief to Betty in these situations and offers a great deal of peace of mind knowing he is in safe hands - he is her world after all! He's loved by all but most of all by Betty - they are the truest of companions and very much look after each other. It's clear to see, and to have a small yet such a significant role, alongside the additional volunteer walkers, in helping keep Betty and Norris together is unbelievably rewarding and this is very much a charity and a cause which is now very close to our hearts. In the words of Betty, "It is a wonderful charity and I am very grateful for the help and support it has offered". I'm sure Norris would thank you too! We have all truly developed a lifelong friendship."



Jo Bridger in Lancashire writes:

"My introduction to fostering for The Cinnamon Trust was with Rudy, the grey Oriental cat. At the time, I was sharing a rented flat with a friend and we were asked to take him on a short-term foster for 6 weeks as his owner needed to go into hospital.

We were smitten, straight away. Rudy is a tiny cat with a LOUD voice and once we'd managed to coax him out from a gap under our bath that he headed straight for on the first night, he settled down nicely. He then decided that he needed to sleep on my head that first night!

So, when we were asked, after 3 weeks, whether we'd like to take him on long-term foster, as his owner had very sadly died, we didn't hesitate. He's always been an indoor cat so he didn't mind being in a flat and he was an older chap so liked his home comforts



Tom

A couple of years later, I moved in with my partner and my flatmate bought a house near London. She had always said that she's 'a dog person' so when we moved, Rudy would go with me. However, when it came time to move, she couldn't bear to be without him - possibly because Oriental cats are quite dog-like! Anyway, as a result he now lives with her so I am catless unless he comes to stay with me when she goes away. Because he is not cat friendly, this means I cannot take on a full time cat, but I can short term foster for The Trust which is how I came to care for Tom and Sammy.

I got a call from Deborah at The Cinnamon Trust to ask whether I could short-term foster 2 cats whose owner had gone into a care home for respite care. She explained that Tom was quite old and needed medication twice a day and that Sammy only had 3 legs, but that didn't put me off. I was a bit concerned about how Sammy would cope with my 2 flights of stairs but he hops up and down them quite happily. They are both lovely



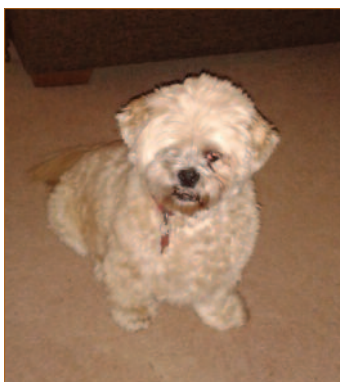
Sammy

characters. Tom is always hungry and will eat anything - he happily licked the cake batter bowl when I was baking the other week and has had a go at the butter when I accidentally left it out in the kitchen! He does need feeding up as he has an over-active thyroid but I'm trying to keep him away from human food. Sammy likes to come and tell me it's time for breakfast by sitting on my chest from about 5:30am. On one occasion, he must have been particularly hungry because he decided to try to rouse me for his breakfast by giving me a nip on my chin! Good job I'm a morning person. Although I've only had them for a few weeks, I'll miss Tom and Sammy when they go home."



When **Carol Bellamy** in West Yorkshire needed a hip replacement, **Dexter** and Louis went to stay with **Jess Knight** who writes:

"Dexter and Louis were a joy to look after. They took over sitting on my sofa and slept with me! When they would play with their toys, Dexter would pull on his then roll over, round and round, like a little barrel; he was so cute and round! Louis was a bit more reserved until he thought no one was



Louis



Dexter

watching, then he would play with his toy like a puppy.

When they went home it left a big hole as they were such characters, but they are always welcome back if their mum ever needs help again. I know that their mum would have been much more worried about what she was about to go through if The Cinnamon Trust had not been there for her. I would like to think it gives her hope and inspiration to know that there are people who can help fostering their beloved close friends so that they can recover without worry."



Jean Lewis, also in West Yorkshire, cared for **Mitzi** when owner **Elizabeth** was in respite:



Mitzi

"I hadn't fostered an animal before so I was a bit apprehensive. I knew Mitzi, a lovely 12 year old Lhasa Apso, from loads of walks we'd taken together. I arranged for her to come for a visit a week before she came to stay so she would know the place.

Well, it was a delight to have her. She settled in quickly but boy could she snore! In fact, if it were an Olympic event, she would have a cabinet full of gold medals!

She usually had a walk a day but I took her out twice a day and she got fitter. Every time we came back from the walk she would have her treat and then jump up onto my lap - I had a soft, furry hot water bottle. She had lots a doggy friends on the field. It was like a dog playground. She certainly charmed a Schnauzer called Stanley, who would run the length of field to play with her. She loved being out in the garden, but only in fine weather; she does not like the rain!

On one walk I met a lady who took a shine to her and when I said she was called Mitzi, the lady laughed. She told me her mother wanted to call her Mitzi but ended up calling her Tracey. She said she would have loved to be called Mitzi.

I thoroughly enjoyed her stay; she was lovely company and a delight to be with. I missed her when she went home, but I still get to walk her! Plus, the look on her owner's face when I returned Mitzi and the sight of her wagging tail, I would not have missed for the world."

And Elizabeth's daughter, **Eleanor**, writes:

"I just want to express our thanks for the support we receive from The Cinnamon Trust volunteers. Liz, Maureen, Jean and Emma supported my parents, Pat and Terry, with Mitzi when, in their late 80's, they became too ill to walk her themselves. In addition, it was reassuring for me to know that whilst I was at work, my parents were having some social contact when the volunteer "popped in" to collect Mitzi for her walk, and I feel that they became friends to my parents as well as to Mitzi.

Since my father passed away last year, I have retired and mum and Mitzi have come to live with me and I have become mum's sole carer. Mum has advanced Parkinson's disease and requires 24 hour care and support. The continued support that we receive from Mitzi's volunteer walkers has been invaluable and has made my transition to full-time carer easier to cope with, as well as providing some continuity for both mum & Mitzi.

As a carer, being able to have a break from those 24-hour responsibilities is essential and the fostering service that The Cinnamon Trust arranges has been fantastic. Mitzi is an older dog (approximately 12 years old) and has never been in to a boarding kennels so, if I had had to find a kennel for her to go to, I would have been very worried about how she would have coped with the situation. The Cinnamon Trust has twice helped with finding a suitable foster home so that I could have a short break. Both experiences have been very positive, especially on the second occasion when Mitzi stayed with one of her walkers, Jean. It was a great weight off my mind knowing that Mitzi was with someone she liked and was familiar with and I think Jean enjoyed having a little "house guest" too.

It is a difficult and emotionally challenging time finding a suitable nursing home for mum to go to for respite, so the support that The Cinnamon Trust has given with Mitzi is much appreciated and meant that I could concentrate on ensuring that mum was well cared for while I was away.

For us, the support that The Cinnamon Trust has provided at a very difficult time in our lives has been immeasurable and we will always be grateful."



Lisa Dower in Buckinghamshire sends a very moving view:

"I was originally introduced to the work of The Cinnamon Trust when I had been ill. Although not elderly, my Occupational Therapist described what The Cinnamon Trust could do for me, and explained how they also help the elderly and terminally ill and their pets. So, when well enough, I jumped at the chance to become a volunteer and in 2017 it was official and my missions started!

Very quickly, I was assigned to Jean. An elderly lady with an extremely sad family



Lisa with Barney, Dougal and friend

history. Jean had lost both her daughters in a head on car crash when they were only 16, as well as her husband a few years later. What I first remember of Jean was her house; it was full of 'angels' and a big red netting butterfly with glittery beads all over it sat beside the TV. Oh...and of course these two delightful little dogs known as '*my boys*'.

An 8 year old white Jack Russell called Barney and Dougal a 5 year old beige Cavachon. I quickly got to know these very appealing little dogs and their quirky personalities, who consequently waited for me like a 'letter from the postman', but without the bite thank goodness...

Months flew by, and Jean and I soon became good friends; what you quickly learn is that elderly people may not see another person for days on end and rely on their pets as their number one companions, let alone spend their last penny on their beloved pets. Therefore having a 'volunteer' from The Cinnamon Trust helps them in so many other ways, too. An odd cuppa here and there and even a sandwich was Jean's way of thanking me, but I didn't ever need thanks; I loved what I did for her!

But her kindness was only allowed AFTER the dog walk! No such luck before! If you tried to, the twosome would bark in sync until your ears were vibrating and you would be forced to exit the house there and then!

As I got to know Jean she softened and let me into her world. BUT she also had a '*turn of phrase*' you might not want me to repeat in this magazine.... But that was the real Jean we all knew and LOVED.

Initially, I only walked Barney and Dougal once a week. This then became twice, three times, then whenever I had extra time on my hands.

Jean needed a heart operation in the October therefore 'her boys' needed a short term foster home. I quickly jumped at the chance and they came to live with our family for 3 weeks. Jean returned home and so did the boys and we went back to the walking routine. It was approaching Christmas time and I wanted to take Jean out for a wander around the garden centre. We did and she loved it. So, my next idea was a surprise Christmas present - tickets for the pantomime, Aladdin! When she opened the card she cried. She explained she had never done anything like that as she couldn't afford it. So the date was set.

That afternoon will stay with me forever! Jean sparkled in her new top and trousers, she had had her hair done and put tinsel on her walker. We had ice-cream in the interval and she laughed and cried until tears ran down her face. On the way home from the theatre, we stopped off at my house. I wanted to show Jean where I lived and where her boys had stayed whilst she had been in hospital. This was to become a very significant visit and an important part of the dogs and Jean's choices for the future!

It was now the beginning of February and Jean suddenly became very unwell. She called 999 and was rushed to hospital in an ambulance and sadly never came home. However, she managed to call me from the hospital. It was dark, windy and cold outside and the boys had been on their own all day "they must be frantic Lisa, please go and get them". I did and they were! The small lounge was pitch black and cold. Barney was shaking like a leaf (which to this day still does when it gets dark and you are not around to reassure him you aren't going to leave him) and Dougal curled up behind a chair. I hugged them both, gathered a few of their belongings and took them home. The next day, I visited Jean in hospital and all she kept saying was "don't let my family throw them out on the streets or put them down". I promised her I would not let that happen. I had emailed The Cinnamon Trust and updated them on the situation. I am deaf and can't use the telephone so it made things a little more difficult. Jean had not signed the emergency card or put any details down regarding 'after her death' instructions therefore it was so important that she speak with The Cinnamon Trust. Zoe from HQ called Jean on my mobile and things were sorted very quickly and, from that conversation onwards, Jean started to relax. The rest is history. Jean died the next day knowing I was going to care for her boys and that Barney and Dougal's futures were safe and her worst nightmare would not happen. She stopped resisting treatment and peacefully fell asleep forever."

We have 1157 pets in lifelong foster homes, so here's a "catch-up" with a few of them:

Firstly, **Jenny Brown** in Oxfordshire loves life with **Lily**:

"Lily, the lovely Lurcher, arrived at my house a few weeks ago. What a difference she has made to my life, and how quickly she has entered my heart!

For over 40 years I have been used to large, hairy, soft Golden Retrievers, bumbling around the place with silly, smiley faces. They were creamy coloured with floppy ears and we had great times together. Now I have a smaller, elegant, short coated black and grey dog, with sharp eyes and sticky-up ears, a bit like the pictures of dogs on Ancient Egyptian tombs.

When my last Golden Oldie died in April, I was devastated to be left alone in the house, especially as my husband had been moved into a nursing home and I had no one to look after or keep me company any more. Most rescue centres, on learning my age (81) and circumstances, found it difficult to find me a suitable dog to rehome. However, my daughter and a friend told me about The Cinnamon Trust and it came up trumps! I learned that Lily had been loved and lived with an old lady of 97, having been rescued from a dog pound many years before, and she was used to little old ladies!



Lily

Lily was puzzled and timid to begin with but has, surprisingly, quickly settled in and became accustomed to her new life, surroundings and routine. She approves of her two beds and rugs around the house where her favourite occupation is sleeping, with a biscuit hidden under the pillow! However, she keeps a sharp eye on me and whenever I move, so does she. I have a little shadow as my companion and I am now back to my normal enjoyment of walks in the local countryside, which Lily finds full of new smells and sights.

She has made friends with my daughter's rescue dog and acknowledges that she can be the boss. Lily is obedient and affectionate, always coming for a hug, loves her food and treats and runs round the garden at the speed of a professional greyhound!

Long may it last! Thank you, Cinnamon Trust."



Jennifer Dashley (Hampshire) tells of mum **Vivienne's** happiness with **Amber**:

"It was just before Christmas 2017 when mum lost Tess. She'd been such a big part of our lives. We'd also lost my dog, Buzz, a few months before. It was devastating, but especially for mum. We were dog-less. When I came to mum's, without Buzz in tow and Tess at the door, the house felt empty. Anyone who has loved a dog knows that feeling.

One day, by chance, we bumped into an old friend who told us about The Cinnamon Trust. We had a home visit and we felt like we really wanted to be lifelong fosterers.

It happened very quickly. I was out in the middle of the countryside on a horse when I took a crackly call. There was a little Spaniel who needed a home to go to. Her dear owner, Sue, was terminally ill and needed to know that her beloved dog would be cared for. There was a complication, Amber needed an operation (which The Trust would pay for) to remove a tumour and The Trust wondered if we would care for her through that. We talked about it and said, yes, of course. It felt like it was meant to be and we were glad we could give Sue peace of mind. We would cherish her little dog who had clearly been so well loved.



Amber and Vivienne

So, Amber came to us and very soon after she had her operation. It was hard to see her in discomfort when she had so many new things to get used to, but she was pretty stoic and we gave her lots of TLC. The operation was a complete success, and before long Amber was following mum round the house, enjoying her treats and relishing walks along the clifftop.

Now, every time I come to mum's, I'm greeted by the waggy tailed bundle of joy that is little Amber. She's often on one of our laps, she sits very prettily for a biscuit and, most of all, she loves to walk. Whether it's the beach or the forest, or a quick round-the-block, she just



loves being out and about and mum and Amber really are the best of pals. They may not be youngsters, but Amber and my mum have a real zest for life. How wonderful that The Cinnamon Trust put them together. And how privileged we feel.”



Teddie has found love with **Jane Lockwood** in Suffolk:

“I started walking Teddie at the end of January this year, as her owner, Maureen, was unable to due to having suffered a stroke. Teddie was, and still is, a very skinny, 9 year old female, ex-racing greyhound who LOVES walks. At the very beginning I could only commit to two walks a week, so I encouraged my friend,



Sue, to register for the Cinnamon Trust so Teddie could have a few more walks and it wasn't long before Teddie was getting long, sniffy walks nearly every day – to the delight of both Teddie and Maureen, who was exceptionally grateful. Teddie was the only 'family' Maureen had, as she was an only child and had never married or had children. Early

on, Sue and I introduced Hector, my deaf, 7 year old, flat coated retriever to Maureen and Teddie. Maureen was smitten (he is very handsome!) and Teddie was indifferent. Walking them together, Hector generally ignored Teddie, although at the start of the walk there would be a mutual sniff, slight wag of the tail – the vague appearance that they were almost pleased to see each other again.

Unfortunately, over the spring, Maureen became very ill and eventually was admitted to hospital on the 31st May, her 73rd birthday, with oesophageal cancer. Teddie was immediately short-term fostered to me, this being her third time, as Maureen had previously had two short stays in hospital. On this occasion though it was terminal, and very sadly Maureen died on the 22nd June.

Before Maureen died it was clear that she had complete peace of mind that Teddie would be well cared for after her death through The Cinnamon Trust, Sue and

myself, as we had both agreed that one of us would foster Teddie long-term. Some weeks before Maureen became seriously ill, I had asked her whether she was pleased she had got in contact with The Cinnamon Trust, on the basis that Teddie was getting regular walks. "Yes," she replied "because I know she'll be looked after when I've gone."

During Maureen's final ten days in hospital, Teddie was allowed in on visits, which hugely lifted her spirits (and that of many other patients) and when Sue and I took Teddie in to see her, on what would be our last visit, after an hour Maureen wanted to sleep and told us "you can take Teddie home now." She died peacefully in her sleep 15 hours later.

And home is with me, Hector and my husband, Dean, with many visits from Sue. Initially, Dean and I thought we might not be able to take Teddie on long-term as in the house she would occasionally snap at Hector, which frightened him and he became wary of her. Now, though, you could almost call them friends – no snapping and even occasional attempts a play. There's a little jealousy on Hector's part, but that is gradually easing. They are happy dogs and Maureen's 'family' has positively added to our family. She will always be remembered."



Jane Edmunds on the Isle of Wight is pleased **Monty** is now family....

"Stop the conversation now, I do not want a second dog" I said sitting in my friend's kitchen, while watching Monty and my dog Tootsie sort of ignoring each other but getting along. I gave all the reasons, insurance, grooming, passport (as I travel abroad in my campervan), cannot take 2 dogs to my daughters, can't fit 2 dogs on my bike. None of my reasons worked. My friend Sylvia (best friend of previous owner) and Monty's carer Ruth both said "The Cinnamon Trust will help you with all that". Still I said "No". A month later, I look across at my sofa where Monty had made himself at home on top of the cushions. Tootsie is not allowed on the furniture, and I asked him "just how did you manage to move in? I do not remember saying yes".

It has now been a year and he is very much a part of Tootsie's and my life. His onetime owner, Hilary, had died of cancer so his previous couple of years had been quite disruptive.

Monty attached himself very quickly to me, but that was not a problem - Tootsie showed that she was top dog and he fell into our routine. He had to learn to travel in the campervan, to travel in the dog trailer I bought, so we could all go out cycling and sit in the converted child's pack



Jane and Monty

carrier for when the walks are too long for him.

Throughout the year the vets, The Cinnamon Trust and I have had to work hard on his itchy skin which would end up becoming infected. This has now been resolved with diet change, daily tablets and Yumega and a weekly rub in of coconut oil. The groomers have complimented me on his improved condition. Friends and family have commented on the difference in him and how lively and welcoming he is when they see him. His one vice is that he will seek out food; he is a master at bag rummaging, my lunch and a donut was quickly whipped from my bag, to the garden and then eaten, along with a Terry's chocolate orange, which ended up with a hasty visit to the vet, to name but a few incidences. So, all are warned as they enter the house and bags are put out of reach. A year of learning and hopefully cracked it. I do hope that Hilary would be happy to know he is loved and cared for.

I also wish to thank all at The Cinnamon Trust for their patience when I phone for help and information. To Ruth who still has Monty, sometimes at very short notice, to stay and he is always so pleased to see her and also Sylvia who also helps in coming to stay when needed.

I never thought that I could manage 2 dogs or that it would be so rewarding.”



And **Jack** is very happy with **Donna Tucker** and family in Cornwall:

“Where do I start with Jack - such a huge personality in a small body! Although he had a sad start in life – he was found abandoned at the side of a road at around



10 months old, Jack enjoyed 4 wonderful years with his previous owner – an elderly gentleman who simply adored him.

We had been waiting for a little while for the right dog to come along, as with 3 fairly young children and a cat in the house already, it was going to take a special dog to fit into the mix. When we

heard about Jack we were so excited, but somehow we managed to keep it from everyone until the night before his arrival – no-one slept much that night! I explained to the children that Jack might be a bit scared or worried when he first arrived, and may not want us to touch him “let him come to you when he’s ready”, and when the transport car pulled up outside, they all sat on the sofa eagerly waiting for him to be brought in. Next thing, in trots Jack with a tennis ball (his pride and joy) in his mouth, tail wagging, ready to play! He made himself at home straight away, choosing the new bed we had bought him over the one he came with. He seemed to instinctively know that we were his new family, and it was almost as if he was consciously making a new start. I don’t think he could believe that he had so many people all falling over themselves to throw his ball for him, and to snuggle up on the sofa with when he was tired of playing! This photo of him and the children was taken literally a few minutes after he arrived – he absolutely adores them, and the feeling is definitely mutual!

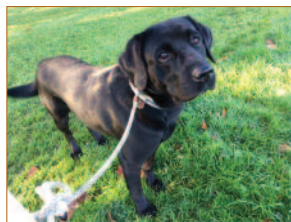
Jack has adapted so well to life in a busy family home, and as a member of The Cinnamon Trust staff, I am lucky enough to be able to bring him to work with me in the office. He sleeps all morning in his bed under my desk, but is quick to remind me when 12 o’clock comes and it’s time for walkies! He was very unimpressed when the clocks went back, and sat and grumbled at me from 11 o’clock each day for almost a fortnight, until he got used to the ‘new’ routine!

Jack has changed our lives so much – we enjoyed being outdoors before, but in the 8 months we have had him, we have found ourselves exploring so many new places, and are all fitter and healthier as a result. We are so thankful for him and couldn’t love him more!”



Bracken now lives very happily with **Maggie Nylk** in Suffolk but here is a view from **Howard Templeton**, his walker and short-term fosterer....

“My first voluntary dog walking with The Cinnamon Trust was with a beautiful, black three year old Labrador called Bracken. He greeted me (and everyone he met) like a long lost friend!



Bracken

Roy, his dad, said since he was a puppy Bracken was untrainable, I was not to let him off the lead. From the start, I felt Bracken was walking me, he knew where to go and pulled me along with him. On one occasion I was blowing my nose, at that moment Bracken lurched towards an interesting scent and the lead flew out of my hand! Fortunately we were in a field, unfortunately he wouldn’t come back to me but he did respond when I said, “come on”, eventually!

Although I only knew Bracken for four weeks, we had many walks in that time. Once, I took him on a different walk where there were large ponds and a running river in a meadow. He stared at the water for a long time, looking at the leaves floating by, he never knew such things existed. That was a moving experience for him, and seeing his amazement made it a moving experience for me too.

Roy was expecting to live until Christmas but his lung cancer quickened and one day, at 4 am, he was taken to hospital. I was due to take Bracken for a walk that day, but before I left the house I got a call from The Cinnamon Trust telling me of the situation. On my arrival, Roy's neighbour, who helped out with Bracken and had a spare key, let me in to take Bracken.

Roy desperately wanted to say goodbye to his beloved companion before he died, Bracken was all he had, so I took Bracken to the hospital. He picked up his dad's scent before we'd even got into A&E, which is where Roy was. On meeting Roy, he licked his dad all over and Roy was able to hug his dog one last time and say goodbye to his best friend. In fact, Roy fell into unconsciousness while stroking his dog and died some hours later.

On our return, the neighbour told me she'd called a man who rescues dogs and that he was coming over to take Bracken. I told her that was not necessary as Bracken would be going home with me. She didn't know that he was in the wonderful care of The Cinnamon Trust. So, I quickly gathered together Bracken's belongings and off we went.

Bracken was with me for just one night before a new owner was found; Maggie from Diss. I drove Bracken there the following afternoon. Maggie and I chatted, we had a cup of tea and shortly before I decided to leave, Bracken jumped up at Maggie and started licking her. He'd found another long lost friend!

I think he knew from that moment that he'd found a lovely new owner and home, thanks to The Cinnamon Trust. One day, Maggie will let Bracken off the lead, he'll learn how to run, he'll experience freedom, he'll feel the wind blow through his fur and he'll return to his owner, fully trained and blissfully happy. Bless you, Bracken. It was lovely to have known you. Have a long, happy and healthy life."

....and **Maggie** writes:

Bracken came to me just over 2 weeks ago when his Dad died. He has settled in really quickly. Only the occasional whine, but he has soon been reassured with lots of cuddles.

We both enjoy lovely long walks and he has got on well with my friends' dogs. At home, he stays very close to me and does not like to have me out of his sight. He

does have a strange habit that I think he must have adopted from when he was with his owner Roy - if he sees me without my slippers he fetches them and insists I put them on, which I do delightedly - even if covered in slobber!

He absolutely loves water and when we have seen it he wants to dive straight in. I would love to let him off but I think it's a bit too soon. I think we may go to some classes so we can work on his recall; I always want to make sure he is safe and loved."



Wow! From Ontario, Canada, **Anthea Hefford** writes of life with **Maisie**:

"Well, in 2003 Maisie (Mabel) arrived at my home in Dorset after a very long journey from Scotland. The first thing I did was burst into tears, as she looked almost identical to my beloved Pebbles whom I'd lost to cancer a few years before.

Little Maisie is such a sweet natured loving cat and tried hard to befriend my other cat River (a 1yr old male), but he was having none of it and constantly bullied her.



Anthea and Maisie in Canada

So, with a very heavy heart, I decided to rehome him as he was tougher and wilder than my delicate little girl. He went to a fabulous new home in the country.

Soon after, Maisie and I moved to Kent to live with my now husband. A year later, we all upped sticks and moved to my country of birth, Canada. All very exciting!

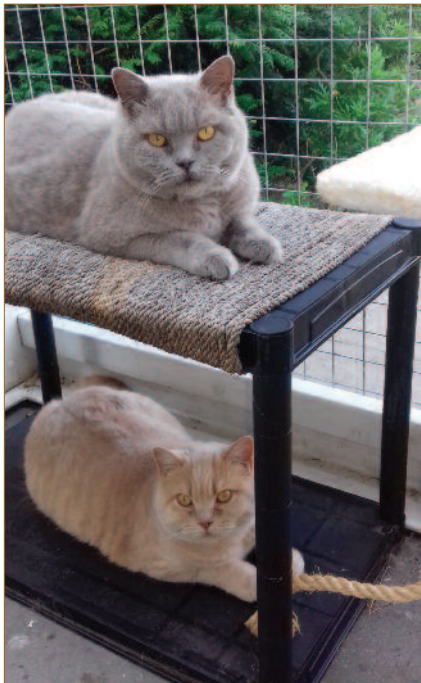
After a long flight and some initial hiccups along the way, Maisie settled really well into her new life & is the happiest she's ever been. When she's not playing, purring, sleeping or eating, she spends her time gazing out of our huge lounge window which backs onto our garden on the edge of the woods.

A wealth of wildlife visit and keep Maisie highly entertained; hummingbirds, squirrels, chipmunks, bluejays, pigeons, woodpeckers, raccoons and skunks to name a few. All safe from harm as Maisie is now a relaxed and content indoor cat!

THANK YOU SO MUCH CINNAMON TRUST FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT."



Angela Warne in Hampshire wasn't going to have another cat....



Samson and Hector

"After losing our lovely cat Maisie of 18 years, I vowed NO MORE CATS, it's too heart-breaking. But, a year later, the house was so empty without them and there are so many cats needing homes. I started thinking about adopting and that very day, Samson and Hector popped up on my Facebook feed. Well, it was fate, so after my husband got over the shock of adopting two cats instead of one we agreed to take them.

Samson and Hector are brothers, they had always been indoor cats so we continued with this, but I found it a bit sad that they had no access to outside when we had a garden. We were afraid they would get lost or hurt, so our son built us a catio on the back of the French doors so the cats could come and go safely and enjoy the sunshine, and fresh air (plus snow, as it turned out!). We regularly change the toys, climbing equipment and scratching areas so it stays interesting for them.

Samson or Sammy as we call him is the comedian who loves to play and spend time with us and Hector or Heccie is a sweet and gentle (but very vocal) boy who likes to do his own thing. We adore these wonderful cats, they have turned our world upside down, they make us smile, and we enjoy every day with them.”



Here's a view from a pet friendly retirement complex. **Sharron Hood** at John Kay Court in Lancaster says:

“Our Jack

If you are in ever doubt about using The Cinnamon Trust, then think again.... I am a Court Manager at a retirement housing complex. I had a lovely resident, Patricia, move in with her very clever and beautiful Jack Russell, called Jack of course. I was worried how he would settle as his living room window was right next to the main entrance. He quickly learnt the ropes, recognising the residents who live here. He greeted everyone through the glass with a smile and a waggle tail.

Patricia became ill and made plans with The Trust to take him for walks, the ladies who walked him loved him like he was their own. They were lovely to Patricia, giving her all the details of his antics whilst he was out and about. As Patricia became worse he had overnight and weekend stays. As her illness



Jack

progressed she became very anxious about Jack, she was fighting with herself constantly about giving him up for adoption before she passed. The Trust was amazing, they explained if she wanted to keep Jack it was not a worry or an inconvenience at all. This is what The Cinnamon trust is all about, allowing elderly and terminally ill people to keep their loving pets as long as they wish. He clearly was her strength to fight and return home from the many hospital visits and stay overs she had to have.

Patricia finally went into a hospice and Jack travelled with his fosterers a fair way to come and see her in her last days. Nothing was too much trouble for The Trust and its volunteers. I was shown many photos of how Jack was when I and residents would visit Patricia in hospital or the hospice. This really did help keep her spirits up; she showed so much determination to stay cheerful. This helped

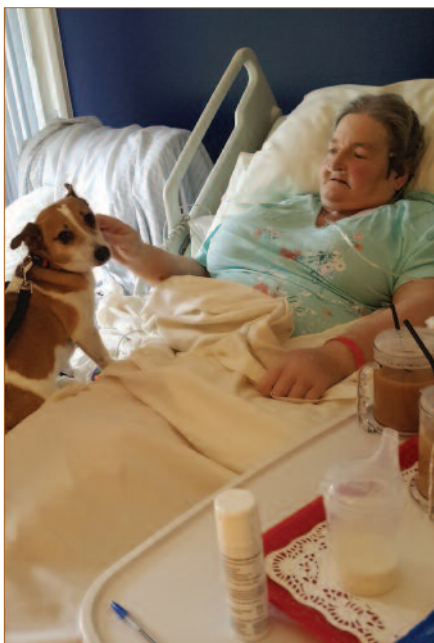
the residents too as they wanted to know how Jack was doing in his new foster home.

Patricia passed away peacefully in the knowledge that Jack was going to be fostered by The Trust with a lovely gentleman, who has as much love and time for Jack as she had. The Cinnamon Trust is an amazing organisation, should I find anyone in need of this kind of specialist help then I will pass on their details without hesitation. I have already e-mailed one of the leaflets to the whole of my organisation.”

And now, **Barbara Pope** who fostered Jack short-term writes:

“Jack came to stay with us in September when his owner Patricia was rushed to hospital. Her only concern was for her beloved companion Jack, a little Jack Russell.

Sadly, Patricia deteriorated but always wanted Jack kept close enough so that she could have visits and wouldn't lose hope she could come home for a few days to be reunited. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be, and Patricia moved to a hospice to be made more comfortable.



Jack with Patricia

We took him to visit her as often as possible at St Johns Hospice, they were always pleased to be reunited and it was very moving to see them together. I am attaching a photo of them both so you can see for yourselves. I had already taken Patricia a photo of Jack with my dogs to have by her bed.

On our last visit, Tricia asked if we would take Jack to see her again, she had been told that the cancer had spread to her liver and that she did not have long. She said that she was worried about what would happen to Jack as she knew I could not keep him long term. I was very happy to be able to tell her that I had met with a lovely man called Peter who had been a volunteer for The Trust for a few years and had just lost his Cinnamon dog called Bryn. The Trust had asked him to meet Jack and see whether he thought they

would be a match. I told Patricia that I thought they had an immediate bond and Jack would be very happy with him, and the relief was instant.

Sadly, we were not able to make another visit as Patricia passed away a couple of days later.”

.... And **Peter Duffy** in Lytham St Annes says:

“Bryn was a little terrier lad – a Yorkie Cross. He came from North Wales on short-term foster back in October 2013 as his dad was recovering from a fall. Unfortunately, due to his health, Bryn’s dad was unable to have him back.



Before Bryn arrived, I had previously decided not to have another dog permanently after the blow of losing my German Shepherd, Sheba, to illness earlier in the year. Bryn was such a great character however that I knew I wanted him to stay and so I took him on lifelong foster. I never regretted the decision for a moment and he became my constant companion during the last five years.

Sadly, time passes very quickly and the moment that everyone with a pet dreads came. Bryn’s health suddenly began to fail and he passed on 11th June 2018 at the age of fifteen and a half. He was only small in size, but he has left a very big sad empty space behind.

Bryn and I had a number of short breaks away visiting different areas of the country but we also spent many happy hours exploring our own area, in and around the Fylde Coast in Lancashire. There are lots of places that are dog friendly here. I am currently working on an internet website as a guide for people coming to any of the resorts in Fylde with their dog. It lists the places that we visited where dogs are welcomed, and is dedicated to Bryn’s memory.

Bryn’s been resting, but I knew he’d be watching out for another wonderful dog to send along when the time was right, just like Sheba did – and he’s done just that. Jack is a Jack Russell who had sadly lost his mum and was needing a home. He’s been here a few weeks now and has already settled in really well. He’s a friendly little chap with a great temperament; nobody could wish for a nicer dog. So, it’s a big thank you to both Bryn and The Cinnamon Trust for bringing us together!”

These three views together exemplify The Cinnamon Trust working perfectly, from walking to life-long foster with the owner and her dog centre stage every step of the way.



Daisy is enjoying life with **Liz Price** in Hampshire:

"11-year-old Daisy came to stay with me after her owner went into a hospice. She was, understandably, completely bewildered when she arrived having left her



Daisy

home and travelled from Lancashire to the south coast. She arrived on firework weekend and Moira at The Cinnamon Trust had been told that Daisy was frightened of fireworks and had a weak bladder (not a good combination!). But she snuggled up on the sofa with me when the fireworks started and apart from a few trembles she was absolutely fine. Over the first few days, it became apparent that although Daisy was happy to go for walks and generally follow me around, she didn't seem to know any commands at all, not even sit, but she is obviously very bright as after a week she was responding to her name, coming to the whistle and playing 'find it'.

After a few weeks, she started to become more confident and is now even more of a joy! She's really well behaved, likes to meet people and dogs; family, friends and neighbours love her already. She likes going for walks, has loads of energy, is good on and off the lead - though not quite so good when it comes to rolling in cow pats!

She has such a lovely nature. I have been so lucky as Daisy is the fourth dog Moira has found for me, and they have all had such different personalities, but have all been so lovely. So, thank you so much to Moira and all at The Cinnamon Trust."



A lovely letter now from **Jean Wild** in Cornwall...

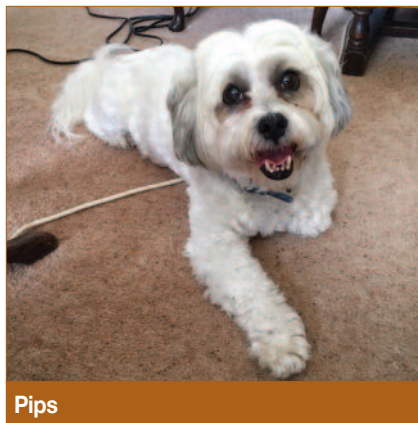
"Oh dear! How time flies!

For some months now, I have been able to walk **Pips** myself, which I am so thankful for. However, I have so much to thank all the staff & volunteers at The Cinnamon Trust for.

In July last year, I was unexpectedly rushed into hospital. I had a good friend and neighbour in Judy Richards who found me on the floor at home. I had been lying there for 12 hours, my poor Pips by my side all the time. I was taken in the ambulance and Judy, knowing I was a Cinnamon Trust member, sprang into action and called to ask for help. Arrangements were soon made for him and that

afternoon a van arrived to take him to be fostered by a volunteer called Margaret. She gave him a good home and cared for him for the week I was in hospital and she said he had been “as good as gold”.

Then came Ann who walked him faithfully, whenever she could which was most days. He got to know her and watched for her coming up the path out through the window. She often bought her own doggie and they became good friends, too! This was such a help for me and a joy for Pips.



Pips

When the time came that I was able to walk Pips myself once more I was so happy. At first I walked him just around the area where I live, but couldn't wait to take him to the park once more. When we finally made it he could run free off lead, he was delighted and he ran round and round in big circles!

Those of us who live alone love our pets and so appreciate 'our' Cinnamon Trust! So thank you all who help in any way with the love and care provided and be proud to say that you work for The Cinnamon Trust, for you are indeed appreciated by many people.”



And **Lisa Millet** in Middlesex says:

“I would like to thank The Cinnamon Trust on behalf of my mother in law, Ruth, for organising prompt care for her beloved Shih Tzu, Dolly. The Trust have walked for Ruth for over 10 years – firstly, her springer Zac who passed away last year, and now Dolly. This support has meant that she has been able to have a dog in her life and as an animal lover, this is so important to her.

When Ruth was rushed into hospital, her main concern was to find temporary care for Dolly.

The Cinnamon Trust were amazing and jumped into action. Dolly was placed with a volunteer, Ana, who lived locally and took



Ruth and Dolly

wonderful care of Dolly. Arranging prompt care for Dolly enabled Ruth to receive the necessary treatment, and her mind was put at ease knowing Dolly was happy.

After a week in hospital, Ruth returned home and was immediately reunited with Dolly.

I just wanted to thank Cinnamon Trust and Ana for all you have done."



Angela Dockery in Cornwall sent her heartfelt thanks:

"2018 has been a very challenging year for my husband, Vince, after a serious health diagnosis requiring major complex surgery.

We live in Truro, Cornwall, and this surgery could only be performed at St Mark's Hospital in London, a considerable distance away.

I obviously wanted to be close to him during his operation and needed to make plans for travel and accommodation to enable me to be with him.

It was a great concern and worry to us as to who would take care of our dog, **Riley**, whilst in London, and then we got to hear about The Cinnamon Trust, and how grateful we were that we did.



Riley with foster mum Diana in our reception area at HQ

From the initial contact with Debbie Fisher, everything was taken care of and Riley was fostered by the most amazing person, Diana Rowe, who looked after him as her own.

Diana went well beyond in caring for him, cooking lovely fresh meals, taking him to meet the Staff at The Trust, and generally giving him a lovely time. Riley is a Glen of Imaal terrier (a rare Irish breed) and a very friendly dog who loves meeting people!

Due to operation complications our stay in London had be extended and Diana was a godsend, in that she organised everything for Riley's extended stay, even providing and

paying for his food whilst I was away, and refusing payment from me when I did return.

After 4 weeks in London I came home, although Vince was still hospitalised in London for a further 2 weeks. After he was transferred back to Cornwall, Diana again came to my aid having Riley stay with her so I could concentrate on visiting Vince. She even collected him from my home, and Riley was happy to see her and jumped into her car without a backward glance! I think that proves how much he liked being with her.

Diana has since become a firm friend and is a credit to The Cinnamon Trust as a volunteer; I will never be able to repay her kindness in looking after our dearly loved dog.

Thank goodness I heard of The Cinnamon Trust, who took some of the stress I was experiencing away. I intend to support the charity as much as I can, when able, in your support of people and their animals in need.

Thank you again for everything.”



Marjorie Wakeling in Suffolk is a wonderful volunteer who has been reminiscing and who sent this, a both heartbreaking and heartwarming letter:

“I am rarely at a loss for words but since the moment I received a telephone call from Liz, telling me that I had been awarded a Gold Certificate by The Trust, I have been unable to find words that would fully express my true feelings at receiving such an award. I am more than pleased, I am more than grateful to be so honoured but all I really wish to do is to hold a large mirror in my hands to reflect that precious award back towards Mrs Jarvis and her incredible, dedicated staff because The Cinnamon Trust entered my life at a time of personal need.

I had nursed my Mum for six years as she progressed through the fog of vascular dementia with Beth our beloved Collie/German Shepherd at my side. I became a stranger to Mum but not Beth! I would put the hospital bed down several times during the day so that “a conversation” would be undertaken by an elderly lady and her faithful dog. I have given thanks to God more than once that there was one area of Mum’s brain that was never defeated by the dementia purely because she never forgot Beth’s name. Mum died in 2008 and sadly Beth the following year, the year that The Cinnamon Trust asked for volunteers in the IP3 area of Ipswich! The journey with The Trust has introduced me to many people, to many dogs, to glorious scenery, wonderful bird song plus every element of our English weather!

I have reflected on travelling to Harlow, in Essex, to pick up Penny, a Parsons Jack Russell in need of a permanent foster home, and becoming gloriously lost until I found a well-known supermarket, went in, ordered a latte, prior to phoning the people who were caring for Penny at the time with one important word: "HELP"! Penny and I were together for two months before her special home was found and we travelled to Fen Ditton, close to Cambridge, to hand her over to two wonderful people with particular knowledge of Parsons Jack Russell Terriers. Whilst Penny was in my care she remained on a lead because she found the company of other dogs difficult, but I have a precious photograph of her standing in a field, paw raised, in anticipation of retrieving the ball that would be thrown for her! I repeat, I would reflect the Gold Certificate back to The Cinnamon Trust because of the careful consideration that accompanies each action taken for an individual animal.



**Marjorie and
Charlie**

I have reflected upon Charlie, an older Jack Russell cross, who came into my care one dark winter's night when his owner died very suddenly and Charlie was alone in the house. I eventually became his permanent foster mum and I remember buying him a warm sheepskin coat because his fur was so sparse and the weather cold. I especially remember, with gratitude, that The Trust paid for all the veterinary care that he eventually needed.

Indeed there are a multitude of precious memories from being a volunteer with The Trust, but particularly, and of great importance, is the fact that I and many others, have become part of the vision that Mrs Jarvis received so many years ago enabling fellow animal lovers to keep a beloved pet in their own home despite being less able-bodied. So, and finally, thank you for awarding me the Gold Certificate but thank you, especially, for accepting me as a volunteer."



Volunteers who have received a **Gold Certificate** for exceptional service this time are:

Veronica Morris (Conwy), **Lynda Bartlett** (Dorset), **Howard Templeton** (Norfolk), **Carol Hill-Frith** (North Yorkshire), **Mike** and **Christina England** (Somerset) and **Claire Hanika** (Surrey).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Patricia Falconer (Kent), **Marianne Millin** (Devon), **Sylvia Marshall** (Cleveland), **Ruth Wilkinson** (Sussex), **Linda Dennis** (Berkshire), **Cathy Zych** (Cheshire), **Ann Dayton** (Cornwall), **Joanne Topliffe** (Essex), **Ifor Morgan** (Glamorgan), **Margaret Beal** (Hampshire) and **Mary Hayes** (Yorkshire).

And **Special Owner Nominated Awards** go to:

Jackie Gordon (Sussex), **Angela Harris** (Sussex), **Martin Pilkington** (Surrey), **Elizabeth Boyall** (Invernesshire), **Diana Rowe** (Cornwall) and **Natascha Nelson** (Isle of Wight).

To each and every one of our registered volunteers, thank you. You are the best ambassadors for The Cinnamon Trust, bringing light, hope, happiness and peace into the lives of both people and their most cherished pets. This makes us and you uniquely special, so again, I say thank you – we couldn't do it without you!



Pet Friendly Care Homes

The winners of our 'Pet Friendly Care Home of the Year' and 'Pet Friendly Retirement Housing of the Year' awards, and the two runners-up, have each enjoyed a lovely tea party, with residents, staff and pets all brought together to celebrate the achievement.

Here are some photos and stories from them...

Pet Friendly Care Home of the Year winner - **The Old Vicarage in Leigh, Dorset**

Home manager, **Louise Turner**, said "Having the award presented to us at The Old Vicarage itself, with all of the staff and residents able to share in it, was just lovely.





It meant so much more to everyone as they were all involved and could hear for themselves why we had been chosen.

The afternoon tea was such a treat, and the magician (Alex Robertson of Arc Magic) wowed us all! The pets really enjoyed their goody bags too. Thank you – it was a great afternoon”.

The award was presented to Louise by local vet, Dr Mark Newton-Clarke, who has helped to care for the pets at The Old Vicarage for many years.

Runner-Up – **Applewood Care Home in Bramley, Hampshire**

Volunteer **Jan Frances**, who attended the tea party at Applewood Care Home, told us “I spent a very pleasant couple of hours at this most pet-friendly home, with singing from the lovely ‘Timeless’ girls (a local 40’s/50’s trio), a delicious cream tea, lots of chatting with residents, staff and relatives, as well as lots of dog-petting. The main lounge at Applewood overlooks a charming garden with pet rabbits, and chickens that I understand supply a few eggs. What a cosy, homely place!”

Local vet, Ken Dolan, who has a personal connection to Applewood, kindly presented the award.



Pet Friendly Retirement Housing of the Year winner - **Bishops Court in Bishopsteignton, Devon**



The residents of Bishops Court - many of whom were accompanied by their four-legged friends, enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea at the Cockhaven Arms where singing trio The Liberty Sisters and their beautiful terrier, Daisy, provided the entertainment with a range of 40’s and 50’s tunes. Sir Andrew Ridgway, former Governor of Jersey, presented the award to Estate Manager, **Richard Moore** who was overwhelmed following Sir Andrew’s poignant speech, in which he highlighted the importance of all that Richard does to support his residents with their pets. Resident, Mike, said ‘To have a manager here who loves animals is

such a bonus – we don’t have to worry too much about Boz barking as Richard pops in and lets him out if he does - it’s great’. Sir Andrew and Lady Valerie also

brought their Pomeranian Willi-O-Bee along to join the party!

Sandra, owner of Westie, Tarr, said 'The tea party was amazing - we had such a wonderful afternoon with friends and dogs'. Brian said 'Although I couldn't make the party, my cat, Bramley, loved his treat bag. I heard a noise in the night and found out the next morning he had broken into it and was eating the treats! He (and I) thank you so much'.



Runner-Up – **Hanover House in Bolton, Greater Manchester**

Estate manager, **Carol Hall**, wrote "The tea party was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The residents were delighted with the gift bags for their pets and the event received a great deal of attention from local media. Thank you so much once again".

Volunteer, Ian Field, who presented the award, said "I had terrific time at the tea party. There was a great appreciation for the manager Carol, for her dedication to the residents and their pets".



Many thanks to online pet supplier, VioVet for donating the toys and treats which were very much enjoyed by all of the resident pets.



And a story from another of our 5 star retirements to finish...

Jenny Woodland, manager of Warde Chase - a Hanover Housing retirement estate in Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex - wrote in to tell us about some of the wonderful things her residents do to help each other out with their pets...

"Denise gave a new home to Boots the cat when his owner - another resident of Warde Chase, sadly passed away. Boots loves to follow Denise wherever she goes on the estate, and she even comes into the estate office to say hello sometimes. Denise also has a dog, Misty, who belonged to her Mum previously, and she cares for her neighbour's cats in times of need.

Ted not only walks his own dog Poppy, but he also walks the dogs of other residents who are physically unable to walk them themselves. Poppy belonged to



Left to right: Denise Weare with Boots, Ted Sladden with Poppy and Joan and Chris James

another resident who became unable to care for her, so Ted welcomed Poppy into his home and encouraged her previous owner to come and visit for coffee a couple of times a week to see Poppy. This kindness is hugely beneficial to older people who find themselves having to give up their pets as it keeps them nearby, cared for and provides a social opportunity for them to get out of the house and engage with other residents.

Chris and Joan have, in the last 8 years, rescued over 55 feral kittens and 5 adult feral cats nearby, and have neutered and rehomed them; there are two that they have kept themselves, Sam and Hollie, who aren't in the photo as they are strictly house cats, but were both abandoned, and now enjoy a comfortable, loving home with this caring couple. Chris and Joan have also helped other residents look after their cats and dogs when they have been unable to do so themselves."



What an incredibly pet-friendly place Warde Chase is – no wonder there is such a long waiting list of people wanting to live there!

If you would like a list of Pet-Friendly retirement accommodation in your area, or if you know of a care home or retirement complex which will allow residents to bring their pets to live with them, and it's not already on our register, please contact Donna on 01736 757900 or donnatucker@cinnamon.org.uk



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We've had our first beach walks of the year, daffodils and primroses are everywhere, the squirrels are very lively and the tortoises are following suit. Spring is very definitely in the air as our cats find their gardens warmer, the dogs grab sunshine on the patio – and the chickens are laying again!!

It's hard to think of those who will not see this spring – we've lost **Jim** (Westie, 16), **Molly** (Chihuahua x Yorkie, 13), **Anna** (Jack Russell, 18), **Gizmo** (Shih Tzu, 13), **Jack** (Pug, 12), **Rupert** (Poodle, 15), **Sparky** (Poodle x King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, 15), **Susie** (Terrier x, 14), **Murphy** (Corgi x, 15) and **Toadie** (Chihuahua, 11) along with four of our cats: **Tippy** (21), **Sparkey** (20), **Tammy** (15), and **Danny** (14). Also, **Rossie** (Budgie, 6) and **Billy the Goat** (16). We can remember so

dearly how each one “celebrated” the summer and hope that wherever they are, it’s even better. So loved and so missed, it’s the hardest part of loving and caring.

Ben is a huge character in a little body with long legs and one eye! He’s into everything and we’ve been very happy to welcome him. We’re not sure how we managed without him because he gets stuck into whatever you’re doing and tells you that you’re doing it! He loves his toys, especially balls – he’ll play ball until he’s tired and when he went missing and caused extreme consternation, he’d gone upstairs into Emma’s bed and was fast asleep! He’s very best friends with **Maisie** (Collie) who steals the ball from his blind side and thereby lies another game.... Such a happy boy, cuddly when he’s sleepy, loves all his food and wants to please everyone all the time.

Dolly’s (11) instant best friend was **Spud**, our little black Pug – if there’s no human to cuddle up with, then it has to be Spud, and she snores with contentment. She’s also quite strict – when Maisie and Ben are playing, if they get too loud and boisterous for her liking, she goes and tells them off, demands decorum and goes back to what she was doing – surprising how effective her quiet little bark can be! Food is of very high importance and bananas are top of her snacks list. She loves the beach, so summer is going to please her very much and she can be so demonstrably happy, it’s catching!

Max (age 16) has come too, but we know it won’t be for long because he has Lymphoma, but we will make the most of the time we have together. His appetite isn’t great, but he does like scrambled eggs, chicken and shortbread biscuits. Max loves to be outdoors but doesn’t like coats with belly straps, so Caroline has made him a special one with no straps. Some days are better than others for Max, but he is having treatment and he is picking up, so we hope he’ll have some summer at least.

Jessica (16) is very pretty. She’s 16 and she’s a great cuddler. She spends a lot of time on the climbing frame nearest the door so she can ambush all-comers for a cuddle – and use both hands if you don’t mind! When it’s time to sleep, she has to be under a blanket and all you can see is a tiny bump.... She’s very



Ben



Dolly



Max



Jessica

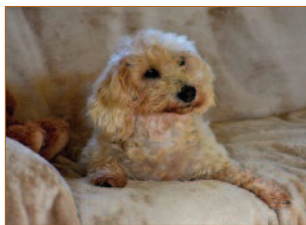
sweet with the other cats and loves to watch them play, rather like a proud parent.

Pepper Pig has played havoc with the ducks' and chickens' fencing so we're going to renew all that in the summer; the ponies' stables need painting, and there's the gardening and lawn mowing to come. But, there's also the paddling pool, picnics, BBQ's, lazing in the sun, snoozing in the shade and sand castles to build – bring it all on!!



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Spring has sprung and to prove it, guess who's come to stay? Four little orphan lambs who now think they are dogs. There's a story to tell – we very sadly lost **Queenie** (11) which left **Lamby** sheep on her own and she was utterly devastated. So, Divina went to the next door farm and asked if we could borrow a sheep. The farmer said we could have **Victoria** who was being bullied by his other sheep – she came home and Lamby was thrilled, they are the best of friends and hit it off from the start. But then the farmer asked us if we wanted four tiny, teeny orphan lambs. Divina is an earth mother so how could she say “no”? She didn't. The lambs, (**Lulu**, **Lucy**, **Liam** and **Louis**), do have a lovely stable with a comfy bed of straw but don't spend much time there, preferring the house and the dogs!! The dogs are all brilliant and the sight of **Lola** (Pyrenean Mountain Dog) mothering them is quite something and, of course, as the lambs flourish and gambol, a game of tag with both dogs and lambs all having so much fun has livened things up to say the least!!



Del Boy

The inevitable down times have come with the loss of **Murphy** (Westie, 13½) and four little cats **Ellie** (16½), **Amber** (18), **Amy** (19) and **Tigger** (16). Each has left a special memory.

Del Boy (12) and **Rodney** (13½) came together, too pretty for boys! They are Bichon crosses. We sadly lost Rodney who was Del Boy's dad from the renal failure he had come with, but Del Boy has many new friends and loves his life here – all the food, all the treats. He gets very excited at walk times, barking, (howling even), and grabbing a lead which he runs around with. He loves to help do the chickens and is not averse to jumping in the stream and rolling in any mud he can find, but then he very much enjoys a pamper bath and blow dry!



Vanja

Vanja (9) is a gorgeous Swedish Valhund who will sit and be fussed all day! And she lets you know when she

wants anything – she barks for food, walks or a game and when she gets excited she'll grab a toy or a bed or whatever is close by and shake it. She absolutely loves roast chicken and she's very good at herding all of us, especially on a walk when a heel nip is in order if you're not going quick enough....

Dee Dee and **Jenny** are 15 year old sisters. They both love walks, Dee Dee especially likes to try and catch the other dogs and she's always digging holes and sticking her face in the mud – her bark is a tiny, squeaky noise! They both love scrambled egg and roast chicken. Jenny is quieter and likes to sleep in Divina's bedroom or in the lounge next to the fire, but she's ready at walk time to join in the fun and she does like to sit in the garden and watch the wildlife or hunt in the hedgerows. They both play with teddy bears!

Billy (15), a small Collie cross, is a happy boy who loves everyone and follows you around all the time as he loves company. He also loves playing with toys, especially his big kangaroo teddy that he came with. He loves water as we found out when he grabbed the hose off one of the girls and was trying to catch the water, drenching anyone anywhere near! He's a great character who loves his food and barks a lot when it's on the way.

Bobby (14), a Westie cross, came with **Wally** (13), a Mini Dachshund. Bobby is a right little character and loves any food – if you turn your back he'll steal your lunch. He was recently spying on Divina putting the shopping away and, when she turned her back, he was in the fridge and stole a pack of bacon! He loves to play and will jump in the toy boxes hunting for his favourite tennis balls – another who sleeps on the bed (it's a very big bed) to get a good rest so he has boundless energy on walks.

Wally is a cheeky boy who lets everyone know what he wants – a lift on or off the sofa, a treat, dinner, a snuggle under a blanket – and don't anyone disturb him – he's only little but he's the boss! His favourite dish is fish pie....



Jenny and Dee Dee



Billy



Bobby



Wally



Rosa



Dolly



Lenny



Jumbo

A lovely family of four cats came to live with us – **Rosa** (15), **Lenny** (15), **Jumbo** (10) and **Dolly** (13). None have ventured far outside yet, but come warm summer sunshine, we're sure they'll be tempted! Jumbo is very friendly and likes a spot in the sun on the windowsill. He and Lenny are more often than not curled up with each other which is so sweet, and he loves to be groomed. Lenny is a happy little cat with a lot of character – he sits in the kitchen and samples every dish before he is satisfied – his favourite, by far, is pilchards. He also loves to be groomed and he loves his cuddles. He climbs up you and puts his face on yours for kisses. Dolly is a quiet girl of the night! By day she's asleep under a blanket, but as darkness falls – she goes exploring, having had her meals served to her as required! And Rosa loves water! She sits near a water bowl and splashes it everywhere and she's an explorer - trying all the climbing frames in order.

Tootsie (18) has everyone wrapped around her paws. She's very demanding, especially at meal times and meows loudly all down the corridors. She loves to watch TV, taps you for attention, and loves the garden.

Heathcliffe (14) is just beautiful and very affectionate, he loves a cuddle and is particularly struck on Sophie – maybe because she can't resist him when he asks for



Tootsie



Heathcliffe

a little treat of ham! He's very partial to sitting in the garden and watching everything that's going on and, when he's not doing that, he likes to play hide and seek behind the curtains or taking a nap in his igloo.

We have so much to look forward to as the days grow longer and warmer, like will the lambs join the sheep? And everybody sunbathing, paddling in the river or pool, tucking in to picnics or simply enjoying life....



Poetry Corner

Christine and **Lewis Knott** from Lincolnshire sent this:

Reflections

TREASURE each moment, don't be cross
When you find one glove and the other's lost
When the face gazing up at you seems to say
"Now where did I put that yesterday?".

DON'T be cross when the day is done
And he wants to play and have some fun
When he finds his ball and as a treat
Lays it before your aching feet.

DON'T be cross when it's pouring with rain
And he wants to go out in the garden again
When the muddy paws leave an endless track
From the front hall door to the kitchen mat.
DON'T be cross when your favourite shrub
Spends most of its time outside the tub
When the lawn resembles a putting green
Full of more holes than you've ever seen.

TREASURE each moment, make them last
For the time will come when they're over and past
When the soft brown eyes are laid to rest
Remember; he tried to do his best.

TREASURE each moment deep in your heart
For when the time comes and you have to part
You will know for certain that come what may
You wouldn't have changed a single day.

BE grateful and happy for all you've shared
Content that he knew you really cared
Treasure each moment and all that's gone
Then repeat it again with another one.

And a very poignant one from **Yvonne Evans** in Llandudno....

My Request

When I kneel at the gates of heaven,
And St Peter assesses my worth
For the things I have done, or left undone,
In my sojourn here on earth.

I don't merit status or glory,
Fine raiment was never my style.
A harp would be useless in my hands,
And clouds only last a while.

I don't crave the wings of an angel,
A crown or a halo of gold;
The heavenly choir would shun me,
But my wishes are small when all told.

There's just one special thing that I long for,
And I pray I'll be worthy of that;
Dear Lord, in thy infinite mercy,
Please give me my little black cat.



And Finally

Last summer was lovely so more of the same wouldn't go amiss, would it? I know we, and you, will be busy – we had a record year March to March helping 140,226 people with 155,626 precious pets, so I hope we can make life better for even more in the months to come with the help of our amazing volunteers. Lots of events planned – good luck with those!

God bless, everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

