

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

Well, here we are again, hurtling towards the end of another year. Another year that has seen laughter and happiness, tears and sadness, surprises and just meant to be, new friends made and old friends lost, more memories to treasure which all adds up to our busiest year ever. Before we share a little of all that, a celebration!



Gunter, our proud, beautiful dignified Hanovarian celebrated his 30th birthday this year.

He came to us three years ago with his stunning Arab friend **Tom**. When Tom died so heartbreakingly soon of a sudden catastrophic heart attack, Gunter was comforted by **Jack** and **Tim**, our tiny little Shetland ponies. Since then he has become their leader, protector and very best friend, his gentle, indulgent avuncular attitude adding hugely to his dignity and tugging absolutely every heartstring. How honoured we are and how he really deserves centre

stage. More from Poldarves later and in the meantime here's some of what's been happening



CT '100' Club

Winners who have each received £25 are April: **Maureen Saunders** (Buckinghamshire), May: **Elizabeth Brownhill** (Yorkshire), June: **Diane Senior** (Shropshire), July: **Pamela Rowles** (Lincolnshire), Aug: **Don and June Perry** (Devon), Sept: **Jeanette Chandler** (Cambridgeshire). Forms for the new start are enclosed - if you pay by standing order and wish to continue, just send the form back marked "existing standing order".



Millie (12)



Sophie (14)



Macey (18)



Kim (20)



Silk (15)



Henri (13)



Carnie (11)



Cheetah (11)



Toby (17)



Buster (14)



Pebbles (8)



Bettina and Matilda

Fundraising Events

John and **Monica Gamble** (W Sussex) raised £60 from making and selling Christmas cards and they also donated £100 in memory of their beloved cat **Robbie** who recently passed away. **Valerie Wright** (Kent) and friends collected £50 in memory of **Penny Bond**. **Mike Hasshill** (Cornwall) raised £25 from



Rachel and Deborah

farmyard muck supplied to gardeners - that's different Mike! **Irene Sarka** (Cornwall) raised £24.04 throughout the year through Easyfundraising. **Hayley Waghorn** and her mum (Somerset) made delicious chutney, jams and cookies also lovely crackers, gift tags and pot pourri to raise a fabulous £150. **David Hollis** and colleagues at **East and North Herts PCT** raised £121 at their Christmas lunch and raffle. **Rod Woodward** (Herts) raised a fantastic £482.06 from a street collection helped by **Lindsey Kirrane**, **David Mahbuth**, **Carol Lambert**, **Christine Hood**, **Siobhan Barrett**, **Ann Dehnel**, **Beryl Bluemel**, **Lorraine** and **Ian Tonkin** and from walking **Pickles** and selling plants - as always you're a star, Rod! **Rachel Whitehouse** and **Deborah Blount** (Cornwall)

completed the Plymouth Hay Marathon and raised £245 - very well done!

Rose and **Ed Frost** raised £24 from their stall at the Dorset Dogs Doggy Festival. **Peter Kirby** and **The Rotary Club of Manningtree Stour Valley** (Essex) raised £100 from their Mayflower Walk and Christmas Float/Street collections - **Patricia Chandler** a mutual member nominated us - fantastic! **Christine Lawn** and **The Lupset Park Group** (W. Yorks) raised a stonking £1,198 at various events including their usual Summer Event on the hottest day of the year! **Lenny's Coffee Shop** in Somerset is a very small entirely volunteer-run coffee shop and each year they donate any small profit to charity - nominated by the volunteers and drawn by lot, we came out of the hat and received a brilliant £280. **Carol Chambers** (Oxon) raised a superb £350 from her annual book sale and coffee morning, **Margaret Fairhurst** (Lancs) held a very successful coffee morning to



Postbridge Family Dog Show

raise £350. **Margaret Cooper** (Devon) with husband **David** and friends **Michele** and **Brian** held their Annual Family Dog Show at Postbridge, had amazing weather and raised a truly wonderful £600.

Julie Henning (Cornwall) held another of her quizzes and raised a terrific £103.50. **Lilian Gowers**

(Essex) raised £50 from her reiki classes, **Jeanne Thomas** (Pembrokeshire) organised a coffee morning, with friends and volunteers in Haverfordwest and raised a fantastic £406.23. **Irene Jones** (Cornwall) sold cards and bric-a-brac to raise £50. **Mrs R Dunbar** of **Planters Coffee Shop** (Kent) raised £200 from the sale of books, jigsaws, CD's and puzzles. **Karen Grant** (Wilts) belongs to a singing group, they met up with two other groups led by the same teacher, with lots of yummy home-made cakes they raised £70. **Paula Spier** (Devon) and the congregation at **Brixham United Spiritualist Church** held a raffle at their animal service 'Paws in the Pews' and raised a wonderful £73. **Grace Holland** (Essex) raised £80 from selling ornaments and her collection of Agatha Christie. **Alison Mesher** (Dorset) completed the London Marathon 2010 in 4 hours, 12 mins and 7 sec - that is seriously good! And she raised a fabulous £300 doing it!



Alison Mesher

Margaret Pengelly (Cornwall) held a coffee evening, there was a bring and buy stall, cards made from paintings and a raffle - with help from her pussycats she raised £90.50 - purrfect! **Carl Drinkwater** (W Mids) raised £98.58 from the sale of drink cans, foil and scrap metal collected by family, friends and work colleagues. **Sheilah Baker** (W Sussex) raised £40 from the sale of doggie coats. **Carol and Tony Nurden** (Cornwall) raised £100 in lieu of presents at their Golden Wedding Anniversary - very many congratulations! **Fiona Berridge** (Cornwall) won the quiz night at her local pub "The Cornish Arms" and raised £20. **Clifton High School Old Girls' Society** held a coffee morning and raised a brilliant £100 in memory of **Margot Edwards**, CT was very close to her heart. **Pauline Martin** (Cumbria) raised £30 from the sale of plants her husband grew. **Simon and Helen Hollis** (Staffs) raised £100 in lieu of presents at their silver wedding anniversary celebrations - more congratulations! **Stella Macpherson** opened her garden for a visit from the Cornwall Garden Society and raised £126. **Catherine Pattinson** (Cumbria) raised £25 from her May Day stall. **Christine Sumsion** and **Carol Allen** (Somerset) sent £250 the result of a cake draw, selling some goodies and fund raising at **Green Pastures Veterinary Centre** Open Day - fantastic!



Green Pastures Veterinary Centre Open Day



Brenda Tidd's quiz night

Julie Aris (E Sussex) raised £207.50 at a quiz night in Westham Village Hall. **Brenda Tidd** (W Sussex) and everyone at **Wakehurst Drive Neighbourhood Watch Group** held a quiz and raised £129.

Janet Dyte (Yorks) sold lots of her lovely cards to raise £230, **Angela Harris** (E Sussex) raised £75 from a May Fair at

Bishopstone. **Louise Matlock** (London) raised £155 from the sale of her super handmade Christmas crackers. **Pam McMahon** (London) at **Care Quality Commission** held a book sale and raised £100.50, **Anne Turberville** (Dorset) raised £17.50 at her coffee morning, **Sylvia Roberts** (Shropshire) celebrated her 90th birthday and her granddaughter **Donna** sent £110 raised in lieu of presents - many more happy birthdays, Sylvia! **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) raised a brilliant £556 at various stalls and sales including their famous "chuck it in the bucket" at the Organic Gardening Day at Wolterton Hall. **Stacey Newson**



Jan and Toby, Carole and Lettie, Peter and Jack

(Cornwall) from St Ives Web raised £22.50 from one of their casual days.

Beryl Seal (W Sussex) raised a staggering £910 from their charity fund raising at Wealdon Indoor Bowls Centre.

Jan Roche and **Carole Curley** (Essex) with **Peter** and **Jack Truluck** participated in a sponsored charity walk and raised £279. Well done - hope those gorgeous dogs had a sausage treat!



Sarah and Chris's 40th birthday

Sarah Clarke and **Chris Melling** (Lancs) held a joint 40th birthday party and donated £102 which they received in lieu of presents - life begins now Sarah and Chris so lots more happy birthdays!

Eric Jones and **Tosca** (Hants) together with **Gwyneth** and **Josie** arranged with Asda Supermarket to be allowed to represent The Cinnamon Trust in the front entrance to raise awareness and raised £26.74. **Doreen**

Cochrane (Norfolk) raised £94 at her coffee

morning at her local pub - many thanks to **Nicola** and **Jason Barka** (landlords) and their customers! **Carol Payne** and **Lynn Hopkins** (Norfolk) provided irresistible tea and cakes for their friends, **Amber** and **Gordon Colchester** and Amber's mum **Bea** (91) who held a Dog Open Day and raised £75. **Anne Deeks**

(Cornwall) hosted two lunches for her friends and neighbours at her favourite restaurant in memory of her dear friend **Peggy**, she invited all guests to show their appreciation and raised £115 - that's lovely, Anne. **Sandra Belcham** (Gwent) placed CT on the community matters board in **Waitrose Abergavenny**, we were their charity for May and they raised £362 - brilliant!



Sandra Belcham at Waitrose

Valerie Littlewood (Devon) and **Bella** raised £90 in lieu of presents for her 80th birthday - lots more of them, Valerie! **Denise Caulfied** (Suffolk) made and sold more scrumptious homemade preserves to raise £100. **Anna Cole** (Hants) and friends raised £41 from her Webb Ivory catalogue. **Janet Morgan** (Worcs) and a team of volunteers had a stall at Bromsgrove Carnival and raised £274 - very well done!



Janet Morgan and the Team at Bromsgrove Carnival

Denise Fletcher (Dorset) raised £12 from her stall at Bredy Vets Dog Show, **Sheila Barge** (Hants) raised £131.50 from a sale of Denise's knitting and in memory of her beloved pussycat **Cindy**. **Oxford and District Cat Club** raised £50 at their Annual Pet Cat Charity Show, **Mr** and **Mrs L Rudge** (Devon) celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary and raised £50. **Elsbeth Cockburn** and fellow students at **Glasgow University Veterinary School** held a fourth year bake sale, ate tons of cake and raised £100 - super one! **Marsha Brett** (Hants) raised £64.73 at the Milford-on-Sea Fun Dog Show. **Jean Roberts** (Pembrokeshire) celebrated her 80th birthday and raised £75, **Diana Bradford** (Bristol) and her husband raised £65 from their car boot sale, **Jane Stokes** and **Joy Twemlow** (Somerset) sent £50 from the sale of books. **Catherine** and **Christopher Guy** (Cambs) celebrated their wedding and raised a wonderful £175 in lieu of wedding presents - here's wishing you both every happiness! **Liz** and **David Lloyd** (Lancs) raised £62 from screening our video and two stalls at Forum 4Age meetings. **Margaret Waters** (E Sussex) raised £10 from a painting session held in her garden which members of Uckfield U3A watercolour group attended. **Sheila Rayner** (Cambs) raised £47.60 from a talk and raffle of 6 eggs from her pet rescue hens. **Dorothy Davis** (Kent) sold delphiniums to raise £12,



Monica Allen's birthday party

lovely one! **Marie Lippell** (Devon) celebrated her 80th birthday and raised an amazing £300 in lieu of presents - I hope you have many more birthdays Marie! And **Monica Allen** (Devon) celebrated her 90th birthday - she had a great party and raised another amazing £300 for us. She said "this comes to you with my



Margaret Kirk and Annie

grateful thanks for all you did for **Tommy** and still do for **Torin**". **Valerie Truscott** (Cornwall) and **The National Association of Ladies Circle** in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly raised a wonderful £200 at various charity events. **Waitrose Community Matters** (Berkshire) raised a marvellous £232 for us. **Claudine** and **Kenneth Riches** (Norfolk) celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a family lunch and raised £100 in lieu of presents - many congratulations! **Margaret Kirk** (Warks) celebrated her 80th birthday with **Annie**, friends and family and raised £100 in lieu of presents - more congratulations! President **Carole Wells** and members of **The Inner Wheel Club of Halesowen** raised £50 throughout the year. **Dee Bull** and **The British Airways Cabin Crew Entertainment**

Society put on a panto each year and their production of Ali Baba raised a fabulous £500 for us. **Graham Miller** (Devon) and the congregation of **St. Disen's Church, Bradninch** held a special collection and raised £55. **The Inner Wheel Club of North Walsham** raised £35. The ladies and friends of **Beverley St Nicholas WI** (Yorks) held a coffee morning and raised £40. **New Malden Vets** (Surrey) raised £101 from their raffle at New Malden Dog Show. The congregation of **St. George's Church Edington** (Somerset) sent £25. **Newbury and District DTS** raised £100 for us, **Westward Ho! Greyhound Supporters Group** raised £50 through their coffee mornings. **Basingstoke Pet Education and Training Club** raised a wonderful £217.16 at their Dogs Christmas Party - I hope there were lots of sausages! **Redruth DTC** sent £50, **Essex Paws Dog Training Club** and **Paws in Motion** combined their two dog training clubs for an evening of heelwork to music and raised £62. **Ginnys Follies Agility Group** (Devon) raised £150 from their Christmas raffle and contents of collection box. **Exeter and County Canine Society** raised £70 at their shows for us in the 'Cinnamon Trust Stakes'. **Cheltenham and District DTC** raised a brilliant £400. **Midland Golden**

Retriever Club sent £125 in memory of **Mr R Hibbs** who had been Secretary of the club for many years. **Wheelgates DTC** (E Sussex) raised £104 from a raffle and their Christmas party. **Christchurch and New Forest Canine Society** raised £149.45 throughout the year. **Paws 2 Think DTC** (W Mids) raised £500 from their Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Courses - fantastic, lots of sausages well deserved! **Arthog Dog Show** (Gwynedd) raised £60 from their dog photographic competition. **Brook DTC** (E Sussex) sent £150 raised from their Easter Fun Night raffle and other events. **Inderbrook DTS** (Surrey) sent £500 in memory of two very special members, **Val Williamson** and **Dorothy Strahan**. **Welsh Corgi Rescue Service** (Kent) raised a stupendous £1,500, **Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association** sent £75. **Snoopy Dog Club** (Herts) raised £100, **Elkhound Leisure Klub** (Bucks) held an Easter Monday Companion Dog Show and raised an excellent £316. **Iver DTC** (Bucks) raised a magnificent £500, **Bridport DTS** raised £50 and **Fakenham** and **District DTC** sent £500 which included the proceeds of their Doggy Christmas Party - fantastic! **Richings DTC** raised £150 - **Derek**, a member donated some jackets on which he embroidered the club's name - well done, Derek! **High Peak DTS** (Cheshire) held a charity agility match and raised a brilliant £270. **London and Northern Home Counties Branch of Basset Hound Club** raised £50. **Leeds DTC** raised a superb £337.21, **Malmesbury and District Dog Club** raised £40. **Prestwick and District DTC** (Ayrshire) raised £75 from their weekly tea table collection, **West Suffolk Agility Club** raised £100 and **Stratford DTC** (Birmingham) raised £500 for us - just fantastic! **Sister Sarah Hennessey** from **Marian House Nursing Home** sent £300, **Foxes Bridge Day Centre** raised £50, **Jack Lyon** (E Sussex) sent £100 which he received from **Aces High Aviation Gallery** in recognition of the help he has given them with his war-time experiences. **The Rotary Club of Midhurst and Petworth** raised a stonking £1,000 "in recognition of the wonderful work The Cinnamon Trust does". **Fellowship On the Rock in Dorset** raised £100, staff at **Brighton DVLA** local office raised £30 and **Lancashire Animal Welfare** raised £50 for us.

Haven't you all been amazing? Thank you so very much for all your time, your effort, in some cases your bravery, your enthusiasm. Thank you for all you have enabled us to give our equally amazing sanctuary residents.



Volunteer View

Our first view is very local! **Diane Swordy** writes:

"Big Ben

I live in Hayle and am a Cinnamon Trust volunteer so my eye was drawn to a dog

waiting for his owner outside the local Spar shop. The dog was in a pretty bad way so I waited to speak to the owner who turned out to be an elderly gentleman. I asked the owner if he wanted help as his dog seemed poorly. The gentleman, Henry, seemed confused but obviously loved his dog and was keen for me to help. I was then at a loss as to what I was going to do so I took Henry and Ben straight to Cinnamon Trust Head Office nearby. The wonderful people at Cinnamon Trust immediately offered to help and came with us to see the vet down the road. The vet confirmed Ben was in need of urgent treatment. I reassured Henry who started crying saying he had let Ben down and thought that we were going to take him away from him. I really felt sorry for him, he is a big chap but he was beside himself with worry, it was obvious that he was suffering from something like dementia as he kept repeating himself. I told him not to worry and we would sort it out. While I comforted Henry, Marnie from Head Office helped the vet with Ben who was not very pleased about being in the vets. Ben needed treatment to his coat which was very, very matted, a very poor example of an Old English Sheepdog! He also had fur matted around his teeth which were in a very bad way. The Cinnamon Trust managed to persuade the vet to give a discount and take a payment plan from Henry. Ben had 5 teeth removed and had his coat clipped and despite being grumpy on arrival obviously left feeling much better, wagging his tail and happy to see Henry again who waited for Ben in the vets for 4 hours. Ben has made an amazing recovery under the constant eye of Cinnamon who will make sure that he and Henry get the support, care and attention they need so Ben does not get into that state again. I walk Ben every week and he is still boisterous at the age of 13, he still chases the girls on the beach although no doubt not quite as fast as he used to be! He is so loving and devoted to his old owner. He deserves a medal - the prize of Big Ben!"



And this from **Roz Carmichael** in Dorset:

"A few months ago I was asked to walk Sadie a 6 year old Alsatian/Ridgeback. This beautiful dog was raring to go "Walkies". I put her lead on and was off up the hill almost on my chin as Sadie was in a rip-roaring hurry to get to the fields having not been walked for sometime I took a pocket full of small treats with me and showed Sadie she would get the little treats each time I called her, thus enabling me to let her have a good run off the lead in a secure area. It worked well, Sadie is a big dog but is very unsure of other dogs, and she shows this by barking very loudly and the ridge on her back is well up. If said dog or dogs come towards her she will then run and hide.

Sadie's owner, a lovely lady called Andrea, was so very grateful to have her walked as she used to take her twice a day before she became so ill herself, I got to know Andrea very well picking Sadie up sometimes 3 or 4 times a week and ended up

feeding the two cats making tea or other drinks for Andrea who was mostly in her bed (two cats and Sadie with her on it). One day I found Andrea collapsed, I called the ambulance and I fostered Sadie for a few weeks but was unable to carry on indefinitely as had holidays in London booked. Volunteer Barbara Peddie took over Sadie's foster care. Sadly, Andrea did not get better and died in hospital but she



Sadie

knew that her Sadie was being cared for and always would be. Andrea's son looked after the cats and took great comfort in having them around. Sadie now needed a permanent foster home and it couldn't have worked out better! Lyn Smith was a dog walking friend of Andrea, Sadie already knows the family and is friends with their dogs - she has settled beautifully and they are delighted to have her.”



Linda Mavin (Devon) will bring a tear to your eye with her view:

“Jake at 12 years was getting on for an Old English Sheepdog. With Cushings disease and hypothyroidism, he had lost his thick coat and needed help in standing. However, there was nothing wrong with his appetite and once settled, showed his strong personality.

Jake came to us after his owner Carol had a stroke. The coincidence being that I had looked after Carol on the stroke ward where I work part time as a nurse. I also knew the rehab hospital where Carol transferred to for two months before going home. Knowing how important pets are in assisting rehab, we visited every week and to see the improvement in Carol was fantastic. Jake always stole the limelight and let Carol know in no uncertain terms that he was doing her a favour by visiting her when there were so many patients who needed his company! When I first took Jake in, he totally ignored her. I couldn't believe it. He walked straight to her without looking up, sniffed her and walked straight out. In other words, “I am letting you know what I think of you leaving me”. Subsequent visits were a joy and the routine started with either a shower or a wash to face and feet before a trip in the car to the hospital. Then ensued the slow walk from the carpark with numerous stops to inspect the trees. After several visits, Jake knew where to go and my only job was to stop him from going into each of the patient rooms. He would go straight to Carol who would be in a wheelchair, put his head on her lap and wait for a treat. Resignedly, he would then flop down by the bed and do his best to trip up all the nursing staff whose job was extended to giving him a pat!

Running parallel with the good that Jake did as a hospital visitor, was the good he had on our household. I had to reduce my work hours when John was diagnosed with cancer, hence the chance of volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust. When Jake turned up, I wasn't sure how to manage such a big dog but in the nine weeks we had him, he became a crutch which we all leaned upon. He gave us laughter and a diversion from the sadness of John's illness and I always felt he knew what was going on. Always the first to greet visitors, he plomped himself down behind the community nurses when they set up the syringe driver on the kitchen table. It was only when he broke wind and looked accusingly around that the tension went and we laughed outright. What a character!

All visitors had the pleasure of his company and their fears and sadness on entering the house immediately went on hearing his gruff "Whoof" and lumbering appearance as he inspected everyone for treats.

At night, when we were all asleep, he would lie at the bottom of the stairs and when John died he left his place to sleep beside the coffin in the dining room. How did he know?

All he asked in return was two meals a day and to be able to chase his red ball in the garden with the occasional walk down the lane if he felt like it.

And the end? It might sound sad but it is just what he would have wanted. Carol went home and I took Jake to her two days later. After his customary walk along the quay, he took me to the flat, knowing which floor and room to go to. After greeting Carol, he went straight to his food bowl. What a reunion!! It was a privilege to be part of it. Jake had bladder problems with us the last week and it was no surprise that I had a phone call the following week to say he had to be put down. Of course it is sad but what a super end, to be in his own home with his owner who loved him dearly. A champion dog and one who will never be forgotten for all the good he spread."



Clare Thomas in Devon has been kept busy, not least by **Precious**

"I became a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust last year when, due to health problems, I cut my working hours to part-time, and needed something to motivate me on non-work days. I considered other types of charity work, but my love of animals, plus hearing about the wonderful work of The Cinnamon Trust, guided me to contact The Trust. Friends and colleagues for whom I have dog-walked and dog-sat, supported me with references/testimonials... I have not owned a dog for many years, but have often had a dog "in residence" here! My husband is retired, so is always at home with the pet if I am working, and we have a secure garden.

I see it as a great compromise to actually owning a dog - all the pleasure, but no difficulties re: taking holidays, and no food bills or vet's bills! And dog-walking is such great therapy - fresh air and exercise, watching the countryside change through the seasons.

The dogs and the owners show much gratitude! I put myself in their place sometimes, and think "if I had a much-loved dog as a companion, and was suddenly taken ill, I should be so glad if someone could pop in each day and give my dog some exercise, when I can't". As far as I see it, it works for everyone concerned ... the owner gets something out of it (less stress in their recovery), the dog definitely gets something out of it! and I myself really feel rewarded that I have done something helpful for someone less fortunate. And hopefully The Cinnamon Trust gets some financial reward to continue their good work. The "Team work" is exceptionally good ... we volunteers liaise with both each other and the Hayle office.

One unusual request was made to me in April this year ... I was asked to do a short-term "foster" for Kathleen Pardon who had to go into hospital for an operation ... not a dog this time, but the most beautiful white fluffy Persian cat! The owner supplied all food and necessary equipment, including a hairbrush. "Precious" settled in well initially, was very inquisitive about her new surroundings ... loved sitting in her little "igloo" bed, looking out of the French windows. Two days into her stay, she became different, began to hide under the sofa. The Cinnamon Trust made regular phone calls about her well-being, and reassured me that this was quite normal for a cat out of her usual surroundings, and, as long as she was eating and using her litter-tray, to just leave her be. The following night, I awoke to find a beautiful fluffy cat on the end of my bed! For the rest of her stay, it was obvious that she preferred nocturnal wanderings, tended to sleep during the day and explore the house at night.

When her owner - thankfully recovering well - returned home, I took Precious and all her gear back, apologising that I could not find her hairbrush! But it turned up a few days later ... when my daughter said "that hairbrush in the sitting-room isn't mine, Mum ..." Either my husband or I had been too diligent in our tidying up! The brush was promptly despatched back to its owner, and I received a lovely letter thanking me and saying "it really hadn't mattered", and that she and Precious were very grateful for all that I had done.



This view is from **David Brant** in Doncaster, another very busy volunteer!

"I became a volunteer with Cinnamon after reading an advertisement in the local paper, and having plenty of spare time being a retired Police Officer and dog



David and Kim

owner, I thought it was an ideal opportunity to help other dog owners who were unable to walk their own animals. I am thoroughly enjoying my time as a volunteer, and as well as walking the dogs, I try to assist the owners where possible with other things they are unable to do.

I first met Kim in mid 2009, her owner Mrs Ann McClean is unfortunately confined to a wheelchair, and had recently lost her other dog due to illness. When Kim saw her lead she started jumping excitedly. On leaving the house she began to pull me down the road towards the nearest footpath. When she seemed completely at ease with me, I let her off the lead to run free on the footpath, a disused railway, she chased about for the entire walk and when she saw a squirrel run across in front of her she tried to climb the tree after it. Ever since then she runs to the same tree to see if it is still there! She has made friends with all sizes of dog on her walks and enjoys her time playing with them.

I am now walking a total of 3 dogs twice a week, a Jack Russell cross, Sally, from Mexborough, and Emma, a Cocker Spaniel from Wath Upon Dearne. I have also had a short term foster arrangement for an elderly terrier. I have had Emma to stay with me whilst her owner has had two recent spells in hospital without warning."



Ben in his basket!

A brilliant view from **Sue Edwards** in Wiltshire - a family affair!

"John and I fostered Ben, a five year old Yorkie in May 2010 having patiently waited for one to happen along. As it happens our wait, approximately three months, was so worth it. We live in the Salisbury Plain area and therefore are surrounded with nice walks and bike rides. Now Ben was a 'townie' having been based in London so it must have been overwhelming for him to arrive in full on country side.

I introduced him to my bicycle which has a super big basket on the front and he wears his harness which is secured to the bike. We ride over the Plain and he gets out and runs for a while whilst I ride, only to let me know when he has had enough running and is lifted back into

his favourite seat at the front of the bike. His excitement when I mention the bike

is unbelievable and in the short time we have had him he has really settled into our way of life. In fact we don't know how we would cope without him now - he is such a treasure. We have introduced him to my son and his wife's dog Honey who is a Jack Russell of about the same age, also fostered from The Cinnamon Trust. They fostered Honey from The Trust about 6-9 months before Ben came our way and the pair of them get on so well.



Sue, Daughter-In-Law Chantelle, Ben & Honey

It was through my son that we heard about The Cinnamon Trust and therefore learnt how to go about fostering a dog and I must say The Trust have been absolutely wonderful in helping out with various issues regarding Ben and helping us understand how the process of fostering one of their dogs works.

In actual fact my son and his wife Chantelle were introduced to The Trust by Chantelle's brother who has also fostered a dog from The Trust, so we have three dogs within the family all fostered from The Cinnamon Trust.

Ben has certainly brought such a lot of pleasure into our lives and we hope that The Cinnamon Trust can go on helping to re-locate their dogs to suitable new families for many decades to come."



Dean Harris in Somerset writes:

"I have always loved animals of all descriptions and felt sad that renting a third storey flat prevented me from having any pets of my own, so I decided to join The Cinnamon Trust.

I didn't know what to expect when I was presented with my first enquiry to assist. A little Jack Russell by the name of Buster! By chance it turned out that Buster's owner Enid was in hospital and was practically neighbours with my landlord, so he allowed me to foster Buster at my home for a while - result! When Enid returned home Buster was able to go back to her.

Then I walked Henry for Mrs. Veysey and Willow for Mr Seany, followed by my two most recent companions, Sadie and Pepi.

A lady called Joy had broken her hip and needed help to walk them. We hit it off



Dean, Joy, Pepi and Sadie

the first time we spoke after we discovered a shared love of theatre and opera! I soon got to know Sadie (a beautiful Whippet-Cross who resembled a fox) and the perpetually lively Pepi (another Jack Russell, rough haired this time), rescued in a terrible state from a puppy farm by Joy.

I walk them on the dramatic beaches of Weston-Super-Mare and in the parks and now that Joy has got a lot better we walk the dogs together. We have become friends and enjoy catching up whilst the

dogs explore.

We have laughed at the squirrels in the park teasing Pepi from the safety of the trees and Sadie's Oscar-winning performances when she feels she is in need of sympathy. Two wonderful dogs with stunning little characters.

I have gained good friends from being a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust and above all I feel I am giving something back to the animals who bring so much comfort and love to our lives. The feeling of reward from this is immeasurable."



Also from Somerset comes **June Warwick's** tear-jerker

"A few months ago I volunteered to work for The Cinnamon Trust and I would like to share the story of Darcy - a Golden Labrador the wonderful dog in my charge and his lovely mistress Jasmine Hymas.



Darcy

Sometime before I volunteered I knew of Jasmine and her dog as I had seen them shopping together, Darcy being Jasmine's Guide Dog, and fallen in love with him, and I often wondered if he managed to get some time off for long walks.

Imagine my delight when I had my first call from the trust to say that an 8 year old guide dog called Darcy was in need of some "down time" for walks. As I went to meet them both I realised that this was indeed the very guide dog I had noticed.

We bonded straight away and had about eight wonderful walks in the woods together and I became friends with Jasmine. Darcy would bound out up the corridor to meet me every week and was the most beautiful, well behaved dog I have ever known, and even used to stop on walks to listen to the birds. A few weeks ago Darcy became lame and was diagnosed with osteosarcoma of his shoulder bone which spread extremely quickly & had to be put to sleep. Jasmine and Darcy had a very special relationship of which I was proud to play a part, but devastated to see her distress at losing her beloved dog who was also her life line. Darcy helped me also gaining confidence after quite a serious operation, and he touched all the lives of the people that knew him.

When he was put to sleep I had just arrived in Lanzarote for a holiday and never had the chance to kiss him goodbye, but I hope somewhere he knows what a special dog he was, and he leaves behind many broken hearts.”



And here's a super view from **Angela Harris** in East Sussex:

“My first year as a volunteer!

I started in January 2008 and my first call was to collect a Shar Pei for a short term foster. As I walked up the front garden path instead of the cute little bundle of fluff I had expected to meet me I was face to face with a rather large, wrinkled and intimidating looking dog. Sorry to say that I didn't know my Shar Pei from my Shih Tzu. This was my first assignment so I couldn't run away, I just braved it out and wished I had volunteered for something less challenging. By the time we arrived home we were friends and had great times together walking on the seafront and eating ice cream, she only got the wafer.

My second call was to walk a Shih Tzu cross called Nelson who lives nearby with his owner Irene. I began to feel like a proper dog walker and even wore my new waterproof trousers. We have enjoyed each others company every Monday since then. Also during May I was asked to pick up a 7 month old Border Terrier cross from a house locally as his owner had been taken into hospital unexpectedly. The family had been rallying round to look after little Alfie but with his owner away in a London hospital it was very difficult.

I short term fostered him for five weeks, it was like having a whirling dervish to stay. When his owner was sufficiently recovered they both enjoyed a lovely reunion. But sadly it didn't last long and his owner died.

So Alfie was back racing around the garden chasing everything in sight, he only keeps still while eating or being brushed.

My husband and I had previously decided not to have another dog after our Lakeland Terrier died a few years ago so when it became clear that Alfie was looking for a permanent foster which ruled? The head or the heart. No contest, our quiet life had been completely enlivened by a little bundle of fun who could make us smile and laugh and play whenever he wanted. The nieces and nephews bought every toy and chew there is. Even a set of felt antlers at Christmas, they wanted a reindeer. He got more presents than anyone else.

The New Year's resolution was training classes at the local dog club. Not a great success. Alfie thought it was party time, lots of treats and pals to play with. We practised diligently every day and listened to the very dedicated and patient



trainers. All to no avail as he was the only one in the class not to achieve his bronze medal, but he had thoroughly enjoyed himself. He does sit and come when called and genuinely wants to please which shows he has had lots of love and affection in his little life.

Our next venture was Terrier Racing, very loosely based on greyhound racing with no betting and lots of laughs. He was a natural and came second in both his heats. He also went in the Dog Show, he was put in the British Terrier Class, the one for those of dubious parentage. We were so proud and so pleased that he had such fun and we went home with a rosette and a tired happy dog. The photo takes pride of place on the mantelpiece and he takes the same in our hearts.

My first year has been a great adventure and I have met some great people brilliant dogs, and transported one very noisy cat. I feel very proud to be a Cinnamon Trust Volunteer."



Barbara Stevens (East Sussex) has been a happy volunteer for ten years ...

"About ten years ago, after we lost our golden retriever Kezzie, aged 15, we decided against another dog at the time because of work commitments. Then I saw an advert about The Cinnamon Trust and realised becoming a volunteer would not only help fill the gap losing Kezzie had created but help other owners suffering the same feeling so I applied and was pleased to be accepted.

Over the years since then my husband and I have walked a variety of dogs, ranging from a long-haired Chihuahua to a very large Retriever and have also fostered many of them while the owners were hospitalised. To all the owners,

knowing their treasured companions would be loved and cared for was a huge relief and they were all extremely grateful for The Trust's help. We also benefitted, enjoying the company - and idiosyncrasies - of these pets: Sally the Jack Russell who was determined to get in our bed, hiding under the quilt at every opportunity, Jack, another Jack Russell, loved to chase the water out of the hose and Bertie, the biggest Retriever I've ever seen, wanted to sit on my lap! Pippa, the long-haired Chihuahua, became a long term foster for us and proved to be totally deaf.

Our current walking companions are Elleigh and Hamish, two Westies of very different character that we walk twice a week and have to stay occasionally. Their owner is losing her sight but now has a team of Trust volunteers to ensure she does not have to give up her precious companions. We also introduced an owner to The Trust when a friend asked us to care for Lady Gladys Emmanuel while her owner had a knee replacement. This proved a great help and although June can now walk again we have become great friends so I continue to walk Gladys, who lives up to the Lady in her name!

All these experiences have enriched our lives as we know the owners could not keep their pets without help from The Trust. Long may The Trust continue!!!”



Elissa Coleman-Smith's view from Staffordshire shows how support and reassurance can make all the difference

“I was recently contacted by Debbie a Volunteer Co-ordinator for The Trust, to ask if I could help.

An elderly lady had found herself suddenly and unexpectedly bereaved by the loss of her daughter who, as a member, had bequeathed her pets to The Trust.

Despite the overwhelming shock, mum contacted The Trust almost immediately as the family had 3 dogs, 2 older cats and a couple of young cockatiel parakeets to look after. Trust staff began to put plans in motion to help but, perhaps owing to shock and uncertainty that this was the right way forward, the elderly lady began to have second thoughts and hesitate.

At this point, Debbie and her associates rang me as I was a volunteer who lived within easy driving distance and asked if I could call round as soon as possible, introduce myself and try to reassure that The Trust was able to offer assistance as her late daughter had planned.

I set off within the hour and tried to think of how best to introduce myself as I was completely unknown to this lady and arriving unexpectedly. I also do volunteer

visiting for Age Concern so am accustomed to supporting elderly people and showed my volunteer card as soon as I introduced myself telling her that I too was a member of The Trust and had willed my own pets into their care and that I kept dogs, cats and parrot-like birds myself.

I was relieved to find that she was quite calm and in control and did indeed want to find alternative homes for all the family pets to enable her to sort out her affairs and come to terms with what had happened. I was soon able to reassure her that The Trust would immediately act and do its best to find the right situation for each pet and offered to take the cockatiels into my own care immediately which she agreed to.

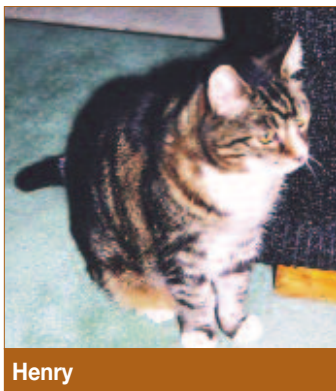
While there, I took two of the dogs for a short walk and returned home with the cockatiels which are now awaiting their permanent foster from my house and feeling gratified that I was able to inspire this lady's trust and confidence. She has since telephoned me twice to inform me that The Trust has organised foster homes so far (and within a week) for all 3 dogs and is taking both cats into its own sanctuary."



Veronica Smyth (Essex) writes ...

"Six months of fostering Henry and Jane have flown by!

I have taken them to their excited new permanent fosterer and they are settling in well.



Only when I think back to the state they were in when they first arrived, do I recognise how far they have come. It has also impressed upon me once again what a close relationship there is between pets and their owner, for Henry and Jane, in different ways, were devastated by the death of their owner and when they arrived at my home, they needed such a lot of love and patience to recover from the trauma.

Henry, an elderly gentleman cat, did not know what to do with himself. He wandered around looking lost and needed comfort and reassurance before he could allow himself to relax on the bed, next to me, and start snoring.

Jane was much younger, but had been hit by a car some years ago and had a damaged pelvis which restricted her movement. She had an untidy fur coat in

knots, which needed brushing, clipping and grooming ... but where was she? She had tried to disappear under the cupboard, but only the first half would fit, so her back end gave away her location. What a frightened girl she was! I left her there to hide until she felt safe enough to emerge. Three days later she faced the world, crouching low to avoid detection and wide eyed ready to react to danger, hissing in panic whenever she was unsure.



How she loved to be next to me! I had my afternoon nap in the big upstairs room which was their first home, and would wake to find Henry on one side, Jane snuggled up on the other. I always felt guilty having to get up and do some housework, when they so obviously needed all the loving I could give them.

However, they progressed slowly to the stage of being playful enough to savage a catnip toy and explore the garden. Henry reminded me of Mr. Bennett in 'Pride and Prejudice', going off into his study with a good book. Not that Henry did much reading, but he did like to sunbathe in the herb garden ... for hours on end!

Jane explored the garden occasionally, wide eyed and alert for non-existent danger, but her main pleasure was to be groomed. Reminiscent of a 1950s film star, she 'asked' for first this side, then that to be brushed ... and then, just under there.

I respect cats for all they choose to give us humans. They do not have to give us anything, but choose to help us through our lives. I think that we then have a responsibility to care for them when they are left stranded, and I feel privileged to have been able to help Henry and Jane."



A few "views from both sides"

First from Cambridgeshire and **Diane Glynn**.

"My elderly in-laws had a large boisterous Labrador which they were unable to walk and I live over an hours drive away so couldn't help out. Through The Cinnamon Trust they found two people who between them regularly walked Toby so he got the much needed exercise and I was very grateful to them. So I decided I could help by enrolling as a volunteer and maybe help someone in my area.

I have recently helped a lovely elderly lady who although very fit and able and



Emma and Oliver

indeed regularly walked her two Westies Emma and Oliver, had a leg injury and needed some temporary help.

I spent several weeks “calling for” my two new friends Emma and Oliver and we merrily trotted off to the local green and sometimes a little further. Emma and Oliver very soon got to know that me turning up meant walkies and so we were all happy.

If you are reading this article and have thought about volunteering but worried about not being able to make the commitment I would say to you “just do it”. Even if you can only manage once a week or so there will always be a grateful doggy and owner and you will be further rewarded by that feel good factor you only get from helping others. Aside from that I have made a new friend in Emma and Oliver’s mum Evelyn not to mention her two delightful Westies.”



And **Evelyn** says:

“When you have two dogs you have regularly walked and they are used to going out it is so sad when you are not able to oblige. My two Westies Emma aged 9 and Oliver aged 4 were missing out when I had a leg injury as I was unable to take them out. During my stay in hospital I found out about The Cinnamon Trust who introduced me to two ladies who were able to help - one for a short while and the other, Diane, was able to help for a while longer until my leg had healed.

Emma and Oliver got their walks come rain or shine and on some days it was even snow. It was such a help and relief knowing Emma and Oliver were getting their exercise and I was able to rest my leg - as much as is possible while still looking after my disabled husband and running the house! - so it healed all the quicker.

At the time of writing although I had been back walking my dogs myself I have had another little accident - won't bore you with the details - and I shall be calling on my new found helpers/friends to help again and I am sure Emma and Oliver will be most pleased to see them.”



Caroline Ball (Cornwall) writes:

"In January this year I was contacted by The Cinnamon Trust to see if I could foster a German Spitz. I've only walked dogs in the past and didn't want to foster but the owner of this particular dog had fallen and broken her hip and was now in hospital and as it turned out I knew the lady and as a "one off" I decided to foster her little dog Zak.



The gorgeous Zak

I was a little worried that he may not fit in with my 15 year old collie and another collie/retriever that I look after for a friend who has had health problems but my worries were unfounded as after about one day of Zak staying close to me and watching the other dogs, he was soon right in there with them, cuddling up with one or the other, going for long walks, visits to the beach and swimming in nearby rivers, he just couldn't get enough of it, and I was also lucky enough to be able to walk Zak to the hospital a couple of times to visit his owner... I've never had any dealings with this particular breed before and I was very surprised at his intelligence and he is such a handsome little ball of white fur. I was happy to foster him for as long as necessary, I would not have missed the experience for the world and I'm happy to say Zak was reunited with his owner six weeks later."



And **May Martin** says:

"I am now on the way to a full recovery having taken a fall last January and breaking my hip. A few days time I shall reach the age of 90 years. I wear a lifeline, so within a few minutes neighbours were by my side. Getting me off to hospital and ringing The Cinnamon Trust, these wonderful people came to my rescue in finding a lady to take in her home my German Spitz dog named Zak. This was a great relief to me.

On coming home they found me a young lady to walk Zak. She also has a Cinnamon Trust dog named Rosie. These two dogs love their walks through the lanes and woods.

Once you have had the privilege of knowing there are people like The Cinnamon Trust, who care, love animals and are so dedicated in their work, you know your pet will be safe and happy."

Valerie Conway in (Devon) writes:--

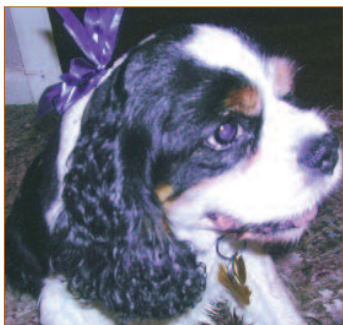
"Rupert walks at two speeds - slow and very slow. It's not that he isn't a fit and lively 11 year old, but every sniff and object within reach has to be carefully examined before moving on. He can put a pace on, but only if it is raining or when we are returning home and then he positively gallops.



Cecily, Rupert and Valerie

Often I am able to stay for a cup of coffee and a chat, so then it is game time. His favourite game is tug of war with his towel, but undoing shoelaces or tugging at sleeves and trousers is next best on the agenda. Hide and seek and tummy tickles are also popular.

On walk days, Rupert is always at the door with a waggy welcome and Cecily with a beaming smile so I have two lovely friends over the last two years, all thanks to The Cinnamon Trust.



Luke

Luke, a nine year old Cavalier is well loved and dedicated companion to a disabled couple, Joyce and Peter. As they are both housebound, I am one of several volunteers able to take Luke for walks.

He is always waiting patiently at the front door, but once outside he is very strong and eager to explore, so we go around the surrounding countryside at high speed. A tasty treat awaits him at Joyce's bedside on our return.

As well as helping in a practical way, as a committed Christian I am often asked to pray with the people I visit. It is an added joy and privilege to be used by God in this way. So being a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust opens doors, makes new friends and is very rewarding."



And **Cecily Hollingsworth** will tug at your heartstrings:

"Valerie has been walking Rupert (a Miniature Dachshund) for over 2 years now and he enjoys his walks very much. Also I enjoy the company that I get from the visits.

Valerie comes rain or shine though Rupert isn't keen on the rain but he goes anyway.

We usually have a cup of coffee after their walk and a chat which passes the time for me, as I don't get out very much.

I should miss the visits very much and have made a good friend in Valerie. Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust for sending Valerie to me.”



Now, to catch up with some life long fosters ...

Kelly

Kath Lohfink took **Kelly** on as a short term foster when owner **Jack Tait** was rushed into hospital.

“We hadn't had German Shepherds before and weren't too sure what to expect, especially with Kelly being an older dog (12). Kelly was a nervous dog; unsure of other dogs and loud noises to say the least and she was only eating chicken soup - her way of saying she was missing her owner. However, after 3 weeks of being with us, and getting into a routine of walks etc., she had settled down a bit.

Unfortunately, Kelly's owner passed away and we were asked if we wanted to keep Kelly as a long term foster. We agreed straight away! It's a great arrangement and meant we could keep Kelly who had bonded with us in the short time we had had her.



Beautiful Kelly

After persevering with her peculiarities, being very patient with her and tough at times (especially when she started barking at people as well as dogs!); she has slowly got used to her new life. We have introduced her to new environments, other dogs and their owners. So now, she has a bunch of doggy friends that she'll run to meet on her morning walks and twice a week she has Alfie for company (a Wire Haired German Pointer who is also on The Cinnamon Trust's books). She's been on holiday to Cornwall, walked in Northumberland, climbed mountains in the Lake District and even conquered Snowdon!

So, here we are - 3 years on - and it feels like Kelly has been with us forever. She's still a nervous dog, and terrified of fireworks; but loads better than she used to be. We love her to bits. I'm sure her owner is looking down on her and I hope he's pleased with how happy she is.”

Max and Ziggy

When **Bill Yates** (Staffs) suffered a catastrophic heart attack, his beloved dogs needed a life long foster.

Jackie and **Ron Bysouth** in Cambridgeshire were waiting. Volunteer **Phil Jones** took Max and Ziggy part of the way. Jackie takes up the story:



Max And Ziggy "camping in the conservatory" with grandchildren Alannah and Megan

"Just over a month ago in a car park in Northampton we met Max, Westie aged 4 and Ziggy, Yorkie aged 6; as we peered into the car they had travelled in we saw two extremely smelly, disheveled, very sad little dogs and for us it was love at first sight.

On the last leg of their journey to Peterborough they were very quiet and huddled together but on arriving home they seemed very keen to explore all the rooms and the garden. After a hearty meal and a warm bath

they had a good snooze on the sofa; it had been a very long journey for them from Staffordshire to East Anglia.

Before long they settled in and became part of the family and after a couple of weeks we really noticed a total change in their personalities; from being timid and quiet they are now playful, boisterous and noisy. Both are very intelligent, friendly and sociable and love meeting people. Max loves being cuddled and Ziggy has become a bit of a 'Diva' with all the attention she gets, but then again a girl can't help being so cute can she!

They are totally devoted to each other and Max extremely protective of his little "sister" Ziggy.

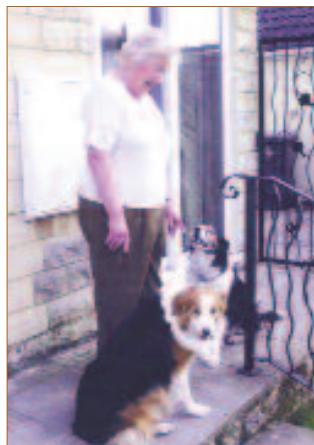
What a difference they have made to our lives, once again the house is now a home with lots of fun and laughs and it feels like they have been here forever.

Thank you Cinnamon for entrusting us to care for Max and Ziggy. We love them dearly and look forward to many, many happy years with them both."



Charlie

Charlie belonged to **Joyce Pray** from Plas Belas Farm in Flintshire, a member since 1990 when she profiled her pets with us. Joyce passed away in February this year and we were contacted by the relatives who told us that Charlie was vicious and had bitten several people including the son. Not wanting to put our volunteers at risk we asked for professional help to collect Charlie and then placed him in a friendly local kennel so we could asses. Almost straight away we could tell that Charlie bore no resemblance to the dog described to us. He was nervous, yes, but that was understandable considering he had lost his mum and all that he knew, he also lived a very isolated life so we had to see things from his side. After a brief stay in kennels, volunteer **Valerie Spencer** in Cheshire took Charlie home for lots of TLC until we found him a permanent life long foster with **Mary Davison** in Wiltshire.



Mary with Tessa and Charlie

Mary takes up Charlie's tale:

"It is now ten weeks since Mr. and Mrs. Spencer brought Charlie to Wiltshire to be part of our family, and he was, understandably, a little reluctant when the time came for them to leave without him. I expected a disturbed night, but no, Charlie is a resilient boy. My house has always been home to at least two and normally three collie dogs so when I lost two quite quickly, Tessa my thirteen year old was without a canine companion. Since the advent of Charlie, Tessa has the sparkle back in her eyes and was ready to resume the role of top dog but Charlie is a match for that any day, and the pair are great companions. Personally I could do with two pairs of hands as they are both great ones for plenty of fuss and cuddles. Tessa loves fuss from anyone but Charlie is more selective. He is willing to be friendly with visitors and those whom we meet but makes it clear that I am his special woman and others are only to be tolerated.

I knew that Charlie had led a fairly isolated life in a remote spot in Wales but I had not reckoned on the fact that all communication had been in Welsh. Normal obedience commands meant nothing to him, but Charlie is a combination of brains and beauty and did not take long to learn; although a Welsh speaking friend of mine can soon bring a dreamy look to his eyes - I can't imagine what she is saying to him!

The thing which I had not anticipated was the fact that he regarded it as his duty to guard the premises in quite a ferocious manner. He does not have access between the front gate and the door so I did not fear for the people but I certainly

wondered if the door would stand it! We have worked hard on this and I am now content that he is calmer and the door is no longer under attack. Papers, milk and post now only get a woof of recognition but total strangers can expect a more vociferous greeting.

Charlie has a pronounced limp so we paid a visit to the vet who feels that it is an old injury and it is best left unless he shows signs of being in pain. If things alter we shall of course review the situation but to see him leaping around, urging me to be quick when we are going out, I don't think that is it troubling him too much.

Charlie is a handsome tri-colour boy and Tess and I could not have hoped for such a great addition to our family; he has settled down well with us, quickly fitted into the routine and like Tess loves going out in the car. Walks are a pleasure as he is very obedient and can be trusted off his lead as he loves to explore whilst Tessa trots along with me.

I can only thank Cinnamon Trust for letting Charlie come and live with us. We love him dearly and I shall do my best to keep him happy, healthy and contented. I must concentrate now on outliving them both!"



This is a very touching story from **Marjorie Wakeling** in Suffolk and **Charlie**.

"Beth, my beloved Collie-cross German Shepherd, was born on the 12th January 1997 and died on the 29th of June 2009. During the years between 2002 and 2008 I called her "my right hand girl" because she was such an important part of my nursing my Mother at home as she experienced a series of strokes and seizures, all of which led to Mum developing a particular type of dementia. It was Beth who alerted me to the fact that Mum had collapsed, during the night in her bedroom, when she suffered her first stroke. When Mum became agitated it was Beth who would calm her by licking between her fingers, by letting Mum fondle her ears, (dogs ears can be so incredibly soft and exquisite to touch). Eventually, Mum forgot who I was but, she could always remember Beth's name and the fact that her fingers should be washed once the licking was over! I will always be eternally grateful that one particular part of my Mother's brain remained sufficiently intact to remember, to recognise, a good canine friend, my beloved Beth, because that memory, in a way, defeated the dementia.

Following the events of that June afternoon when Beth was put to sleep I can only say that I felt ill. I mourned my mum but to have to relinquish Beth so quickly afterwards seemed unbearable. I vowed that day that I would never have another dog of my own. In my mind I seemed to close a valuable book which I had been holding in my hand and I put it to the back of the book-case never to be opened again.

Eventually I approached The Cinnamon Trust with a view to becoming a volunteer.

My first assignment with The Trust came in mid January 2010. Could I possibly foster a 14 year old terrier cross whose master had died? I brought home a small, anxious, angry and stressed little dog who growled his way through several days, bereavement was as difficult for him as it was for me. He needed help, my help - I took the book down from the book-case and forgot myself!

Charlie has been with me for nearly three weeks. The first breakthrough was exactly one week after I had picked him up - I was quietly reading a newspaper when this bundle of energy threw himself at me and insisted on licking my face! He has settled and become more calm and really quite obedient! I actually appreciate the fact that he is like a grumpy old man at times, it shows great character, great resilience!



Marjorie and Charlie

The most astounding thing, though, is the healing which his presence has brought into my own life. I became a volunteer with The Trust to enable others to keep a beloved, therapeutic pet with them at home but, instead, I am the one indebted to The Trust for letting me care for Charlie!

I think I can hear a very special, never to be forgotten, collie-cross saying: "I did not train you for almost thirteen years in "doggy ways" for you not to look after another special canine friend - enjoy his company like you enjoyed mine! By the way, did you notice that the new chapter in the book is headed Healing. Good old Charlie!"



And **Oscar** landed on his feet!

Alan and **Jennie Sutton** in Northampton write:

"Oscar came into our lives in December 2008 following the unfortunate death of his previous owner. He is certainly the smallest dog we have ever had but with a big personality and a loving and affectionate nature.

I am afraid to say he rules the roost at home, with my husband and myself doting slaves to his every whim. He likes nothing better than to curl up on an available lap, and races for the chair if he thinks you are about to sit down. We need to have our wits about us, as he is so small he has almost been sat on more than once!



Oscar

He takes great delight in chasing the pigeons from the bird table, although if he got too close I am not sure what he would do - he is not much bigger than they are!

He likes helping round the house - especially if we need an extra pair of paws to eat crisps. One of his favourite jobs is assisting my husband to bring up the tea every morning and indulging in a little nap on the bed while I drink it.

We are very lucky to have him - he brings us such joy."



Ashley and **Brenda Adkins** have become inseparable in Coventry

"In the summer of 2002 our little dog Ellie had to be put to sleep and, as my husband and I were both pensioners, we decided not to take on another pet. However, in early 2003 we became aware of The Cinnamon Trust through our local newspaper and began dog walking at first and then short term fostered an assortment of dogs over the years. We enjoyed doing this and were happy to be of assistance to their very relieved owners.

Just before Bonfire Night last year, I fostered Ashley, a part Border Collie, while his mistress went into hospital for a short stay. Unfortunately her condition proved to be more serious than expected and sadly she died, she made arrangements for her much loved pet to be taken in the permanent care of The Cinnamon Trust. Ashley is believed to be about 12 years old and had been re-homed by his late mistress and master from a dogs' home when he was a few weeks old. As he would now require long term fostering, I decided that we would be company for each other as I had recently lost my husband and was having to come to terms with a very different and lonely lifestyle.

In spite of his years, Ash has an abundance of energy and can easily outrun most other dogs. He would race off and fetch a ball all day every day if I had the energy to keep throwing it. He is happiest when going for a walk (the longer the better) and riding in a car (anyone's car). Whatever the weather, we walk through nearby woods, fields or the park although I should really be gardening or doing household chores. During these walks I have become acquainted with other ladies in similar circumstances to myself and we often stop for a chat. Everyone has a guess at the breed of his other parent; Corgi, Alsatian, Husky and fox have been suggested!

I now receive an ecstatic welcome when I get home which is so much better than entering an empty house. He is a very quiet dog and only barks when anyone knocks the door although he usually stands behind me. He is very obedient and has obviously been a very much loved pet so I like to think that his late owners would be pleased to know that he is still a much loved pet and that the two of us in the 'twilight of our years' are company for each other and 'singing the praises' of The Cinnamon Trust to all who will listen."



Ashley in Bluebell Woods



A couple of very cute, very clever dogs have written - I couldn't resist

Jessie in The Wirral says:

"My Mum Suzanne Cawsey has asked me to write to you to thank you all very much for taking care of me when she had to go into hospital.

I went to stay with Rachel who had five other dogs who all made me very welcome. We had lovely walks in the Park together and we soon became good friends. Of course I missed my Mum, especially over Christmas but Rachel and her dogs made sure I was able to join in the fun.



Jessie

I went home on New Year's Eve and I just would like to say how much I appreciate all your help and kindness to me and my Mum.

Thank you so much, Jessie"



And **Josh** in West Sussex:

"Hello, I'm Josh, a mini Schnauzer. My photograph was taken by Graham who has been my walker for quite a long time. We love him and his family.



Josh

My other long term walker was Denise, also a much loved friend of mum and me. She found she loved an Australian a bit more than us so married him and went to live in Australia. Even I realised it was too far to come and walk me. Denise still keeps in touch though and we have had all the wedding photos and she rings us now and again. (When the others ring they come in. I listen to Denise but she never comes in!!)

Soon The Cinnamon Trust sent a lovely lady - Jean. In spite of my funny ways and fears she still likes me and I love her. Jean and Mum are friends too.

Then we heard The Cinnamon Trust had found us two more, a husband and wife, Patricia and Martin. We are all friends now. Patricia thanked Mum for letting them share me.

When I am brought back home the walkers always stop and have a chat to mum. I am rather naughty when this happens. I like to talk as well, talk not bark. When I am ignored I stamp my two front feet to protest. Get a telling off but I am only trying to socialise!

Lots and lots of thank you's to The Cinnamon Trust for all the happiness you and all your caring and trustworthy volunteers give mum and me. The world is a much better place for all of you, love to everyone, Josh Cobden.



To each and every one of our registered volunteers, thank you. You bring so much happiness to those we help, allay so many fears and I will keep on saying, because it's an absolute, we couldn't do it without you



Volunteers who have been awarded a Gold certificate for exceptional service are:

Linda Wainewright (Dorset), **Mary Bull** (Kent), **Jacqueline Jinks** (Staffordshire), **Maggie Martin** (Sussex), **Liz Lloyd** (Lancashire), **Brian Rowe** (Cornwall), **Alison Emony** (Devon), **Eva Chesswas** (London), **Muriel Pearl** (Devon).

Just Meant To Be

We had a call at HQ from Morrison's Car Park - an emergency. It was the Ambulance Service.

A lady (name unknown) had been taken seriously ill, there was a dog in the car, they'd tried the police, dog warden etc. to no avail, then searched the car and found a Cinnamon Trust emergency card. Sherry left immediately - we told them we were on our way, leave the car keys with the store manager.

The dog was a greyhound and she had a collar - her name was **Whisper**. Sherry called in this information. We traced her in our records. Her mum was **Brenda Blyth** a member. We'd helped her before in 2008 with another emergency foster.

We called volunteer **Sheila Andrews** - she'd love to foster Whisper again. We called the hospital and asked them to let Brenda know we had Whisper safe and sound. We called Brenda's friend **Beryl** to let her know about Brenda. Beryl returned our call and told us Brenda had had a serious stroke and had requested Whisper go and visit - it was her dying wish.

Sheila took Whisper to Beryl who took her to the hospital. Brenda died the next day, at peace.

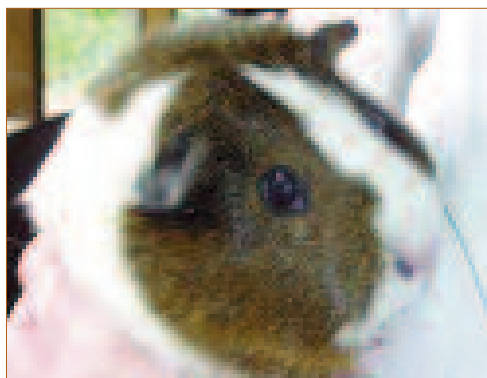
Sheila's own greyhound had died very recently and in her words "Whisper was heaven sent to me". Whisper is safe, happy and deeply loved as a Cinnamon dog with Sheila now for the rest of her days.



A Tall Order!

Barbara Falshaw (Essex) profiled her pets with us in 1999 - well, some of them Barbara sadly died and we suddenly had three beautiful cats, a cockatiel, a budgie, a tank of about 80 guppies, a pond of Koi carp and eight Guinea Pigs! Within a week all were safely ensconced in their new foster homes

The Piggies didn't have names so they've become the spice girls and this is Cinnamon Spice!



Cinnamon Spice

Pet Friendly Care Home and Retirement Housing Register

Our Pet Friendly Care Home and Retirement Housing Register just keeps growing. We now have details of 938 care homes and retirement housing schemes all over the UK which say they will accept residents and their pets.

In the last year we've welcomed new care home and housing parent groups to the register including Midland Heart, Cognatum, Advantage and Wales and West Housing Association. We've also had many new registrations for care homes and housing schemes from groups already on our register and from independently-run homes.

Our independent assessors are currently in the process of visiting every single home on our register and reporting their findings back to us. From their reports, we will star rate the homes and housing schemes for their pet friendliness and details of the top 500 will be published in Pet Friendly Care Homes and Retirement Housing-Star Rated! This version will be launched at Crufts 2011 and will have, for the first time, separate sections for care homes and retirement housing. We will also be holding our prestigious Pet Friendly Care Home and Retirement Housing of the Year Awards later next year, when we will present awards to the best six homes or retirement housing schemes, including the overall winner.

On average 40 people a week ask for the register covering their area because they need this facility so, if you know of any homes or retirement housing schemes which will accept residents with their pets, let us know!



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

It's been paddling pool weather! And sun beds! The cats deserted their rooms as some found a shady, private place, others stretched out and maybe even upside down simply basking in the warmth of the sun, and some to watch with not altogether good intent, the sparrows who moved into the honeysuckle beautifully and thickly covering the fencing. The dogs paddled (apart from the Labradors who wallowed, dived and splashed), rolled in the long grass - all the better if the fox had passed through, enjoyed picnics by the stream and walks in the cool of the woods. Idyllic!

The joy of summer couldn't, sadly, prevent the ache of profound loss. **Lovell** (16) much beloved polar bear of a collie. Darling, quirky **Saffy** (14½) little Jack Russell, **Sheba** (17) sweetest Collie cross. **Spotty** Cat (19) who so enjoyed his short time with us. **Charlie** (18) and **Mattie** (17) both beautiful, gentle loving little cats. **Tomazee** (20) magnificent ginger boy. **Misty** (12) gentle silky tabby. **Pandora** (22)

incredible girl with amazing whiskers that framed her gorgeous face. **Timmy** (16) much loved Hillside clown, and the most handsome British Blue **Pushkin** (15). All cherished, missed and lovingly remembered.

Old friends leave us but it is the way of things that new ones come to enrich our lives. **Henri** aged 13 is a gorgeous boy, gentle, quiet and he doesn't see as well as he used to but you'd never know it! Not long after he arrived he opened the fridge and helped himself to a tray of sausages - he'd eaten most of them by the time his new friends cottoned on and came to share the feast



Henri

He brought with him his most precious possession - a well chewed little red ball and it is so precious to him, he eschews all other toys in favour of it and we are so honoured that he chooses to share it with us when he wants to play. He tosses it to you and you have to dribble it back! Henri can sprint, too, especially when there's a bone to be eaten in the shade of a tree

Quince (15) has joined us, too. Such a sweet boy with a huge zest for life. He races up and down the garden like a jet propelled rocket; he greets everyone, human and canine with such exuberance he barrels into you with a huge smile on his little face. On a walk he takes off as if he's on the Badminton Horse Trial course bounding over any objects in his path, leaping over the stream - only when he starts to tire does he consider waiting for everyone else to catch up! Needless to say his enthusiasm extends to his food!



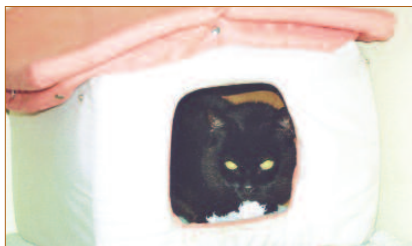
Quince

All the way from Kent came **Katy**, Patterdale Terrier (12) and her best friend **Cody**, Border Terrier (14). Such gorgeous old faces both. Their mum used to help at Buttercup Goat Sanctuary so they are more used to goats than canines, but they settled right in and claimed their favourite spots within the hour! When introduced to Chas and Dermott (our goats) they were not fazed in the least by Chas's thuggish behavior and told him they had met his kind before! Both of them love their food and they need no encouragement at walk time, Katy loves to roll in grass, over and over and over! Indoors, when she's not harassing the Hoover, she has a fine array of squeaky toys which she alone is allowed to play with - she takes them right up



Katy and Cody

on to the backs of sofas so no-one else can get them! Cody on the other hand would rather have a ball and she has the most endearing little way of tapping you gently on the leg with her paw when she wants attention. She always does this at meal times just to remind you she is there and she is waiting! These two are very close and loving, looking out for each other all the time and cuddling up together at night with mum's jumper.



Whiskers



Pansy



Peggy and Deano

Four new cats have come to live with us - **Whiskers** (14) a gorgeous, chunky boy with only three legs and no tail (an RTA when he was younger) nevertheless he can race up the corridors at some speed at mealtimes! He's playful and mischievous and he does love to bask in the morning sunshine - on the window sill - only **after** breakfast does he repair to the garden. **Pansy** (15) loves to be outside, she's definitely one of the bird watchers - feisty, intrepid hunter. She has the most gorgeous soft, thick coat which well equips her for her outdoor life. That said, she is a cat and she doesn't do rain (we've had some!) and she does do gourmet food in the restaurant

Peggy (10) and **Deano** (12) came together, the very best of friends. It is early days yet, but Deano is proving to be a very inquisitive boy, checking out all the boxes, beds, chairs, toys and some of the girls! He follows you up and down the corridor in the hope that more food will be coming his way and ensuring he isn't missing anything. Peggy is a Persian Doll with a gorgeous round face, big, big eyes and the softest fur. She is playful - a game of "chase the feather" being her favorite at the moment and she does like to roll in the gravel in the

garden! She's absolutely fascinated by the antics of the boys when they play tag - wonder if they will have a very glamorous playmate soon?

The seasons are changing now, and Christmas dinner isn't too far off, along with the fun of decorations and trying to unwrap presents before time - or just plain thieving so much to look forward to!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

Summertime again and the sun shining brightly had all the residents clamouring to be in the fields. Some to unsuccessfully try their skills at flushing out and chasing bunnies, some to just lay down in the new sweet smelling grass. Idyllic conditions for a few lovely weeks before the rain hit Cornwall. We have certainly had our share of damp walks and outings this summer but nothing that an indoor picnic or the smell of cooking sausages on the Aga couldn't make better. The birds nested simply everywhere and the excitement of watching the parent birds going backwards and forwards feeding their young and waiting for the first fledgling to appear. Some pleasures never alter. The badger family are still eating their own weight in peanuts and sultanas and for dessert digging up the lawns to find worms. Fox and family get braver by the day and sit on the cattery wall waiting for dinner. This year they have been joined by a stray seagull, George, who is cheeky enough to get in first for the choicest morsel in the dish. The chickens make dust baths then hours later the craters are full of water but no problem worms are coming to the surface - tasty treats all round.

Happy long days and evenings but sadness crept in as some of our wonderful, funny but always loving residents said goodbye.

The end of an era came when we lost **Sam** (20) and **Kim** (21) within three months of each other. They came with sister **Candy**, a trio of gorgeous Collies, when they were 14 having been fostered since the age of 6 - so Cinnamon pets for most of their lives - it was a privilege. We've lost **Queenie** (16) Border Collie and head prefect. **Mitzi** (15) gentle Lurcher, **Minnie** (17) a little Terrier cross comedienne, darling **Beth** (14) Yorkie, **Jilly** (19) Jack Russell inspector of shopping bags, **Molly** (11), Min. long haired Dachshund, keeper of the chickens, **Tuppence** (16) Pem. Corgi guardian of the Aga. And **Toby** cat (20), dog watcher, **Tibby** (16) had her own picnic rock in the field, **Lizzie** (15) glamour girl in the cat rooms and **Sam** (22) who still looked like a kitten.

The tears continue to fall. The laughter over their antics continue to help. The thankfulness that we were able to share in their lives will last forever. God Bless little ones you were all so very special and have brought such joy to so many people.

A sequel to the emergency mission of last newsletter relating to the rescue of seven chickens and five cats during the heaviest snowfall ever recorded in Cornwall. Mrs Nicolas from Gweek went from hospital into a nursing home so our temporary residents became permanent. The chickens are happy in their new home and are rewarding us with lovely free range eggs each day.

And the five cats? **Jimmy**, a dark ginger and white girl who just loves the great



Jimmy

outdoors. Up the tree and over the roof each morning and Jimmy is away to firstly check her chickens are all ok then into the fields for a spot of hunting or sunbathing depending on the weather.



Fifi

happiness complete after a tummy rub and a long chat. **Dabs**, with a grey/peachy/apricot coloured coat. She loves hiding away then suddenly appearing when least expected. She is very visible first thing on a morning though - on the counter top demanding her breakfast. That is not the time for games. **Zoe**, calico cat and the undisputed head of her little family. Even matriarchs can be forgiven for reverting back to kittenhood when a laser pointer is switched on. She WILL catch that pinprick sized light one day. **Mitzi**, tortoiseshell and white who really is not being rude as she sticks her tongue out when spoken to. She is the nosey one of the five and cannot bear not knowing what is going on. She must travel miles up and down the cattery per day just checking on everything. All so different but come the evening and all the family reunite, safe and happy together.



Dabs

Good things come in small parcels so the saying goes. That was very true when a tiny, three legged, 15 year old Yorkshire Terrier named **Debbie** arrived from Yeovil in Somerset. Not for one minute does Debbie let the small issue of a front leg missing deter her from doing what she wants to do. She loves being taken out in the car either to visit



Zoe and Mitzi

someone or somewhere. Any plant in the garden that has a scent has her undivided attention as she buries her head in it and breathes deeply rather than just having a sniff. A walk along the riverbank with all the different vegetation satisfied all her craving for pleasant scents. Her favourite pastime of all though has to be her daily visit to the cattery. So many bowls to have a biscuit or two from, so many baskets to try out for size and comfort, tunnels to peep into, balls to poke with the inquisitive nose, and joy of joy's, catflaps to hop through, one in every room and all

leading into separate parts of the cattery gardens. And at the end of Debbie's day an Aga to snooze in front of!

Two more 15 year olds to join us at Poldarves are **Silk** a very handsome chocolate point Siamese and **Tabitha** a dainty grey Tabby. Two closer friends would be hard to find. Silk being a Siamese is the spokesman for them both with Tabitha quietly waiting to be noticed then greeting one with a series of silent meows. Her favourite moment of every day is being picked up and carried on her back while being given lots of kisses. She gets quite beside herself, the purrs getting louder and louder. Silk on the other hand likes to arrange himself across any willing shoulders all the time carrying on a one-sided conversation.



Debbie



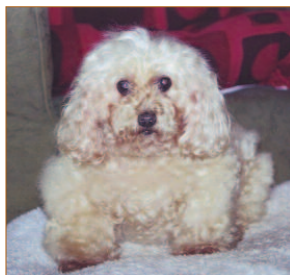
Silk

Of the two of them he is so sociable and visits every room in the cattery daily giving an opinion on every subject then he remembers Tabitha and scurries home to her. The only time they have a disagreement is when he decides to sleep on her floor cushion instead of on his cushion in the chair. These cushions they brought from home, so they are special. On these occasions our gentle Tabitha gets a very stern look on her face and stares without blinking until Silk remembers his place and moves.

Another emergency arose when the loving Mother of **Goldie**, 13½ year old Toy Poodle and **Mopsy** a Lhasa Apso also 13½ died unexpectedly. Mrs Rooney had taken these two little ones into her heart and home when their original owner had passed away. Thankfully they lived locally so arrived only hours after being bereaved for the second time. The only way to describe the first impression of Goldie was a bustling, fussy little soul who just knew she would be welcomed and loved wherever she was. And so she is. Goldie has rather short legs and a somewhat wide girth so cannot jump. That problem was solved by placing a round beanbag by an armchair to enable her to have a choice of seating. This arrangement suited her very nicely as she does like to see what is going on and there is no chance that she may



Tabitha



Goldie



Mopsy

miss any treat coming out of the kitchen. Those bright, sparkling round eyes miss nothing. She is female all the way and adores being groomed when she will turn on her back for just one more brush before preening herself and showing how pretty she looks. Mopsy on the other hand gave the impression of being a quiet, shy little girl and not too sure of herself. A few weeks later she started to give the game away - just the look that came into the eyes. Mopsy had been quietly finding her way around and getting to know everyone before showing her true tomboy self. It's all there in the eyes that glorious mischievous, naughty look which means fun and games ahead with another of our wonderful residents.



Max and Daisy

Last but not least - no, definitely not least came the next residents all the way from Yorkshire. Preparations were made for two new ones who would be so tired and bewildered after such a journey. How wrong could one be!!! **Max**, chocolate Labrador, aged 14, with his companion **Daisy**, Collie X Labrador aged 13 leapt out, rushed around saying hello, we are here and love it already.

Max true to his breed will never grow up and is a thief, Labrador fashion. Anything left out must be for Max. His first illicit pilfering was a new tub of 70 cocktail sausages. He is not greedy though and willingly shares any spoils with his friend Daisy, the "lookout", and new friend Birley, mini Dachshund

who so approves of Max and Daisy's tricks.

They have both perfected the art of looking so innocent when caught in the act - Max, head on one side, tail wagging while Daisy just lifts that lovely grey muzzle up. Impossible not to smile, impossible not to love.

We are already planning security measures to safeguard the Christmas turkeys!! And how much we look forward to that day when we start with presents, snack all day, end with turkey and everyone **knows** it's Christmas!



Nice Things!

They're saying nice things about us on the Internet under Animal Rescue Group Reviews:

Some Snippets:

"The Cinnamon Trust is a really worthy organisation. It is doing excellent work in helping the sick and the elderly, who suffer less from anxiety, knowing that whatever happens to them, there will be a safe and comfortable future for their companion animals.

The motto of The Cinnamon Trust really says it all: "Peace of mind and practical help for people - love, care and safety for pets". - *Ruth Belena*



".... And when it comes to quality care, The Cinnamon Trust provides quality care as no other place. Their sanctuaries may appear unusual without kennels or cages, however, with the pet's comfort in mind, they have been replaced by comfy sofas, chairs and rugs to provide a unique taste of home. Routine and care is provided to adhere the best to the pet's original home setting.... Pets make great companions for senior citizens. They offer comfort, love, companionship and best of all, motive for starting a fresh new day. It is truly a blessing that an organisation such as The Cinnamon Trust dedicates so much for pets and their owners. Each pet and owner ultimately has a story to share and with the help of The Cinnamon Trust, it is granted to have a happy ending ..." - *Janet Farricelli*



"Nothing short of a place of miracles for both owners and pets, Cinnamon Trust is a special place where a loving pet is gently maintained instead of being coldly replaced because of illness or death by a society that easily replaces life" - *Nancy L Young-Houser*



"There's nothing sadder than an older pet surrendered to a shelter because their elderly owner has died or is no longer able to care for their beloved friend. Older pets are more difficult to place in new homes and have grown accustomed to living in a quiet home with one or two people - and generally being spoiled rotten. And what could be crueler than separating two friends at a time in life when they should both be enjoying a quiet life together?

In the United Kingdom, there's a wonderful charity devoted to caring not only for

older pets, but their owners as well - helping seniors to keep their pets if possible, and giving them the peace of mind that their pets are being well cared for when they are no longer able to

For the benefit of pets, but even more for the peace of mind of elderly and terminally ill pet owners, The Cinnamon Trust provides an invaluable service to some of the most vulnerable members of our society." - *Pat Gray*



"The organisation was founded in 1985 by a Mrs Averil Jarvis MBE when her own pet Cinnamon died at the age of 17 and what a wonderful gift she has given the world ...

As we age we find ourselves lonely and to fill that loneliness we sometimes choose an animal for companionship. As we age our dear friend ages with us and before long we find ourselves to a point where we can't take care of ourselves or the animal that we love so dearly and this is heartbreak for both the human and the pet.

Cinnamon Trust helps those that can't help themselves. Cinnamon Trust's objective is to preserve that wonderful relationship that has developed between the person and their pet by helping to overcome any difficulties that may arise along the way. Can you just imagine what a wonderful impact this has on both the elderly pet and its owner?" - *Betty Carew*



A Landmark Year

It now costs over £1,600,000 a year to run Cinnamon Trust of which £1,480,000 is spent on our charitable activities - that's 92.5%. We receive over 500 phone calls each day to help in every corner of the UK. We are responsible for the life time care of 918 pets and 13,157 are registered for the future. Last year we helped 25,658 people with 30,970 pets... We are classed as a large charity. For these reasons, we felt that it would be beneficial for The Trust to have its own legal identity and for this to happen we had to register it as a company as well as a charity which means a new charity number - 1134680.

A Deed of Transfer and Merger consigns everything owned, donated or bequeathed to CT 293399 to CT 1134680. Nothing else has changed at all, our aims, objectives, standards and values remain constant.

I just have to memorise the new number!

Poetry Corner

Do, please, keep sending your poems. Our first this time is written by **Reverend Charles Potter**:

To My Cat

You have a life of your own
I know:
And I can only guess
In what pathless wilderness
Your catly imagination heads
Beyond those humanised flowerbeds:
But sooner or later
I know
You'll find your way home.

I have a life of my own
You know:
And only a strange surmise
In those curious bootbutton eyes
Can follow me through the closing door
Into the world's unresting road:
And sooner or later
You know
I'll find my way home.

For there is a life that we share
We two:
When we sit beside the fire
And our random thoughts conspire
To carry us back, both cat and man
To that far-off garden where life began
And sooner or later
We know
We shall find our way home.



And this is really beautiful, written by **Liz Diamond**

A Secret

We have a secret, you and I
That no-one else shall know
For who but I can see you lie
Each night in the fire glow?
And who but I can reach my hand
Before we go to bed
And feel the living warmth of you
And touch your silken head?

And only I walk woodland paths
And see ahead of me
Your dark form racing with the wind
So young again and free
And only I can see you swim
In every stream I pass
And when I call, no-one but I
Can see the bending grass



And Finally

Time to thank all of you, members, volunteers, supporters, staff, trustees and Patrons for all you have done to help ensure that those who need us and their beloved pets, heroes without doubt, have their fears dispelled, their lives enhanced, their love protected.

As Christmas with its magical promise of life, love and hope approaches, and the dawn of a New Year beckons, it is in our very nature to look back before we look forward. And in that moment, may I ask you, as ever, please, to raise your glasses and remember with undying love and gratitude, absent friends.

Happy Christmas everyone and God Bless.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

