

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

I think Spring is especially welcome this year - and as I write this, the wild birds in my garden agree! They are so busy, a blackbird is already about to hatch her first brood of the year in my garage, the nest building is almost frantic everywhere and appetites insatiable. All the dogs and cats are once again relishing some warm sunshine with play and frolics the order of the day. A lovely time of year and the herald to all this is always Crufts.

We had a great show this year - so good to put faces to voices and meet with many of you and the highlight was the presentation to our Young Volunteer Of The Year **Emily Melliush** from Devon.

Thoroughly deserving of this award, 15 year old Emily has been walking Polo for his housebound owner every Monday after school for three years, without fail. She and her family are great supporters of all that we do and Emily is a superb ambassador both for us and for her generation.

As ever, we've been extraordinarily busy. Impossible to share all with you but I hope you enjoy the mix!



CT '100' Club

The big winner in December who received £100 was **Thomas Bartlett** (Norfolk). Winners who have each received £25 are Oct: **Pauline Muir** (Scotland), Nov: **Norma Barnett** (Dorset), Jan: **Carolyn Barnes** (Cornwall), Feb: **Winifred Blake** (Hampshire) and Mar: **Cryil Dodd** (Norfolk).



Fundraising Events

Janet Morgan (Worcs) raised £30 from her talk to Perdiswell Mature Group and sold CT items and plants to raise another £24.50. **Sylvia Hudson** (Hants) held a terrific book sale at her local old peoples' home to raise £150, **Christine Sumsion** and **Carol Allen** (Somerset) held a stall at Worle Lions Fun Day, with items donated by Buster's veterinary surgery and raised £110 ... and then **Buster** with help from **Sue Mosedale** his Agility Trainer, raised £30 from his Agility Display - sausages for him! **Helen Mead** (Beds) and team raised £205 at their show. **Rita Curtis** (Cornwall) sold CT gifts to raise £40 at her show. **Diane, Peter, Jenny** and **Sean Davis** held a fun day at their home, with "Name the dog" and "Where did the teddy

travel to?" tombolas, auctioned wine and beer, served hot dogs and cream teas to 60 friends, neighbours and family to raise a whopping £712. **Judith** and **Laura Dranfield** (Cornwall) grew the little plants, **Sue Miller** sold them and raised £81.50, **Anna Cole** (Hants) sent £20.02 commission on her Webb Ivory orders. **Brenda Williams** (Herts) raised £25 from the sale of some garden plants. **Sarah** and **Brent Hadley** (Devon) sold hessian bags to raise £24 and **Skippy** a very happy lifelong foster dog sent a photo of himself in the garden enjoying summer and his ice lolly, what a gem!



Skippy in the summertime



Paul Pamplin's skydive

Pamela Stokes (Herts) celebrated a BIG birthday, she held a party and raised £320 in lieu of presents, fantastic! **Yvonne Joslin** (Hants) raised £110.50 at her Oakhanger Fun Dog Show - lots of sausages! **Paul Pamplin** (Norfolk) is a brave man - he sky-dived for us at Old Buckenham Airfield and raised £103 - well done Paul! **Irene Jones** (Cornwall) sold cards, paperbacks, patchwork handbags and

craft items to raise £275, **Christine Doham** (Suffolk) raised £38 from the sale of her Peacock feathers - corn on the cob for them! **Grace Holland** (Essex) sold ornaments to raise £30. **Heather Cawston** (Dorset) and neighbour **Paula** raised £100 from a plant stall outside their homes. Another sky dive! **Haydon Vet** nurses, **Tammie Parkin**, **Lucy Witcomb** and **Claire Carter** completed a sponsored sky dive and raised a stonking £926.19. They went up to 15,000ft above Dunkeswell airfield, Honiton. They all did a tandem dive and free fall for 10,000ft followed by a slightly more relaxing 5,000ft parachute decent. A bottle of wine each - very well done!



Haydon Vet Nurses ready to go!

Racheal Phillips, (Denbighshire) along with **Flash & Bobby** hosted a school assembly at **Rhyl High School** to inform 900 students about The Trust and raised £50 - good one! **Norma Foster** (Surrey) raised £20 at her coffee morning, **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £73 from Burnham-on-Sea Nursing Home's summer fete and the sale of Christmas cards at Mark Day Centre. **Margaret**



Bernice Lewis' stall

Mort (Lancs) raised £20 from the sale of tomatoes. **Bernice Lewis** (Cornwall) with help from **Nigel** and **Annette** held table top sales over the summer in Boscastle Harbour and raised a fantastic £582.19.

Trudi and **Bryony Drewett** (Cornwall) raised £79.62 from their coffee morning. **Brian** and **Margaret Taylor** (Devon) raised a superb £600 in lieu of gifts at their wedding - many congratulations and much happiness to you both! **Gail Bastian** (Cornwall) raised £102.51 from a talk and table top sale and **Ruth Young** (Wales) raised £66 from her car boot sale. **Carole Curley** (East Sussex) raffled a huge, gorgeous monkey at Rother District Council and the generosity of staff and councillors was equally huge, they raised £165 for us.



Carol Curley's monkey



Carol Lambert and Beau

Pat Hearn (Warks) raised £220 from her coffee morning - many cups of coffee enjoyed here - well done Pat! **Sonia** and **Reg Patterson** raised £150 from cat sitting **Vikki**. **Rod Woodward** (Herts) has once again been brilliant. Together with **Lindsey Kirrane**, **Carol Lambert** and **Beau**, **Christine Hood** and **David Mabutt**, **Ann Dehnel**, **Beryl Bluemel**, **Val King**, **Siobhan Barrett**, **Angie Tomlinson**, **Ian** and **Lorraine Tonkin** raised £730.25 from two street collections and a stall.

Carol Payne (Wilts) and **Lynn Hopkins** raised £60 from their stall at Wolterton Hall Organic Day. **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) held a garden party at her home to raise £217 - excellent! **Sue Baker** (Devon) raised £48 from her two table top sales. **Graeme Hall** (Essex) raised £25.18 from selling surplus vegetables at his gate. **Dorothy Drew** (Suffolk) had a great coffee morning and sale to raise £205, **Carl Drinkwater** (W Mids) with help from **Evelyn**, **Pat**, **Maria**, **Aiden**, **John**, **Mark**, **Paul** and **Ron** collected cans, foil and scrap metal which raised £257.87 - brilliant! **Jan Smith** (Essex) raised £205 by looking after **Snoop**, **Louis** and **Brodie** when their owners were away.

Christine Lawn and **The Lupset Park Group** (W Yorks) have been as busy and as fantastic as ever. They raised £1,172 from various events including an amazing coffee morning. **Liz** and **David Lloyd** (Lancs) with help from **Dorothy** and **Renée** held talks and stalls over the summer to raise £96.63. **Linda Reeves** (Kent) and her friend **Pat** raise money throughout the year to donate to chosen charities - they sent us a wonderful £300. **Sheila Wisdom** with friend **Jacqueline** raised £83 from their stall at New Eltham Christmas Fayre. **Dorothy Knowles** (Devon) raised £20 from her table top sale. **Alison Bradley** (Devon) raised £10 from the sale of apples from her garden. **Andree Lockett** (Lancs) raised £165 from her 'All Chocolate raffle' - who could resist?! **Belinda Horne** (Hants) raised a magnificent

£423 with her "small" sale and coffee morning held at her home and she sold lots of her free range eggs. **Dorothy Drew** (Suffolk) raised £55 from her Christmas Fayre table top sale. **Beryl Rogers** (Cheshire) donated the Lion, **Linda Maund** decided on a "Name the Lion" competition at Motorcise Healthy Living and they raised £27. **Flo Croucher** (Somerset) raised £150 from the sale of her delicious preserves and knitted mitts, **Vicki Brunt** (Sheffield) and everyone at



Dorothy Drew's coffee morning

Outpatients 2 Dept at Northern General Hospital raised £50 from the sale of 2nd hand books. **Sue Manning** and everyone at **Springbank Veterinary Surgery** (Merseyside) sent £206.05 raised by staff and clients - excellent! **Gill Cochrane** of **Adorable Dogs Grooming Salon** (Chepstow) had a raffle at her salon for a lovely hamper full of doggy goodies, free groom and a free bath and raised £146. **Christina Burton** (Surrey) hosted a tea party for the members of **The Bob Chudley Club for the Blind** and raised a marvellous £250, **Puzzler Media** (Surrey) chose us as their charity of the year, all the staff raised a staggering £3,659.86. **Elstree Court Nursing Centre** (East Sussex) held an open day, residents, family and staff all joined in and raised £65 from their raffle - even the Mayor came for tea! **Helen** and **Stuart Ravell** and the **Kirkby Green Light Railway and Friends** (Lincolnshire) raised £100 for us. All the staff at **Yours Magazine** (Cambs) raised £150 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Pam Lambert** of **Dogsbody's** (Cornwall) sold Christmas cards and raised £120. **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) with help from **Lynn Hopkins** and **Carol Payne** raised £160 from selling Christmas cards, mulled wine and a tombola at Aylsham Christmas lights. **Mary White** (Norfolk) also sold Christmas cards and raised £64. **Rita Wood** and everyone at **RichT Performing Group** raised £100, **Gloria Jackson** (Yorks) raised £50 from the sale of her large soft toys. **Judith Ward** (Somerset) sold lavender bags and raised £21.85, **Worshipful Brother Sami** and everyone at **The Lodge of Virtue and Industry** (Bristol) raised a marvellous £200. **Susan Parker** and **Marion Holly** (Oxford) raised a wonderful £255 from the sale of Butterflies and the purchase price of a painting. **Paul** and **Sharon Perkins** and family (Stratford-Upon-Avon) raised £260 from their Christmas Sleigh - lovely one!



The Perkins family's Christmas sleigh

Hazel Stacey (Wiltshire) raised £100 from her sponsored giving up smoking -well done Hazel! **Brenda, Clive** and **Hazel, Eve, Faye, Jim, Liz** and **Marianne** from **Bagatelle Club Bexhill** raised £91 from their monthly get togethers. **Rita Pateman** and everyone at **Middleton-cum-Fordley WI** (Suffolk) held a quiz in their local village pub and raised £200. All the pupils at **St Piran's School** (Cornwall) raised £75 from a non-school uniform day - brilliant. **Ms Bryce** and everyone at **City Vets** (Devon) raised £174.54 during December. **Mary Smith** (Kent) raised a stunning £652.43 from the sale of items on ebay and then she raised another £100 for a year's haircutting and foot treatment for Mr Smith! All

Year 6 students at **Scaltback Middle School** (Suffolk) raised £100 from selling scrumptious biscuits. **John** and **Yolander Drinkwater** (Cornwall) raised £65



Nicky happy but tired after the party!

from a drinks party at the **St Ives Leisure Centre Yoga Group**. **Lucy Williams** (Glos) was the lucky winner of a work-based competition and nominated The Trust to benefit from the £250 prize - well done Lucy! **Valerie Briggs** and everyone at **St Albans Tangent Club** raised a staggering £1,289.00 from a square dance event they held. **Neil Reardon** (Cornwall) raised £384.55 from selling Kernow Lace Linen & Eco-Products. Everyone at

Swayne and Partners Vets (Suffolk) raised £100 from the sale of a flea treatment product. **Irene Sarka** (London) raised £17.19 from shopping with Easyfundraising.org.uk over Christmas. **Jenny Philp** and the staff at **St Julia's Hospice** (Cornwall) raised £36 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Margaret Ashman** (Kent) held a Ladies Night and raised a marvellous £233 from the raffle. **Margaret Scott** and **Sandra Pridgen** (Lincs) raised £65 from their scrummy Christmas baking. **Maggie Croft** (Herts) organised "Afternoon Tea" for friends and raised £200 - lovely! **John** and **Barbara Brown** (Norfolk) held a social evening, sold lots of goods, held a raffle and raised £110. **Nicky** the Westie was a star host.

Monica Gamble (West Sussex) raised £50 from the sale of homemade Christmas cards. **Pam Lear** (Somerset) completed a charity dog walk and raised £20. **Carol Chambers** (Oxford) raised £340 from her annual book sale and coffee morning. We helped a member of **The York Lions Ladies**, **Margaret** who recently passed away and they held a social evening and raised £100 in memory of this special lady. The **Rev. Geoff Bell** and congregation at **Trinity Methodist Church** (East Grinstead) raised a magnificent £200 for us. **Pauline Green** and **Bonnie** (Essex) raised £20 to thank **Ruth Illingworth** for her good deed. **Bleaddon Country Sports** (Somerset) raised £200. **The Inner Wheel Club of Bude** raised £40. **Cheltenham and District DTC** raised £260 from their tombola stall and practice ring at their open show. **Derby and District DTC** raised £130 from a raffle and tombola stall at their open obedience show. **Woburn DTC** (Milton Keynes) raised £300 from their raffle and book sale at Woburn Champion Show and in memory of treasurer **Gill Janes** who sadly lost her battle with cancer, they sent a further £205 - Gill was special. **Fleet and District Dog Training Society** have been busy! They raised £321.01 from an obedience collecting tin, raffles and a Spring bring and buy sale masterminded by **Janet Baker**, then another bring and buy sale, skittles, Christmas party raffle and much

more! **PADS** (Dorset) together with **Breedy Vets** and **National Trust** raised £222 from the RDOS dog show. **Wilnecote Dog Training School** (Birmingham) raised £100 from a raffle and soft drink sales. **Donyatt DTC** (Somerset) raised £100 from a summer dog walk and cream teas - now there's a good combination! **Horley and District Show Society** (Kent) raised £243.91 from their companion dog show and **Brook DTC** (East Sussex) held a raffle at their summer party and raised £100. **Skernedale DTC** (Co Durham) raised an astonishing £500 from their Exemption show and then a further £100 'In memory of our friend **Josie Cooper** from all her friends at Skernedale DTC'. **Altrincham and District DTS** raised £100. **Denne Park DTC** (West Sussex) raised £100 and **Radlett DTS** (Herts) also raised £100. **Bishop's Stortford DTC** chose us as their Charity of the Year and raised a fabulous £500. **Newton Heath DTC** (Holmfirth) raised £350 from fundraising and raffles throughout the year. **Redbridge Ringcraft Association** (London) raised £40 from a quiz and pennies for "spending a penny" on the floor! - good puppies! **Cornwall Agility Club** nominated us as their charity of the year and raised an amazing £350.10 at their six agility shows. **Snoopy DTC** raised £200, a member of **Pixie Canine Training Club** (Glos) raised £300 from card making. **Southern Golden Retriever Society** raised £252 and **Hatfield Peverel DTC** raised £50 from a raffle at their dogs' Christmas party. **Plymouth DTC** raised £150 and **Laleham DTC** (Middlesex) raised a stonking £500, their Founder and President **Mary Stephens** is 92 years and still an active driving force - fantastic. **Canine Capers Dog Obedience Group** (Somerset) raised £150 from their raffles and in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Launcells/Bude DTC** raised a wonderful £400 on their lottery where the dogs and puppies pick the numbers - sausages all round! **Jocoles Well DTC** (West Sussex) raised £25 from their Christmas raffle. **P.E.T. DTC** (Hampshire) raised £110 from their Christmas party - despite lots of snow, so really well done! **Westville DTC** (Lincs) raised £30 from their Christmas party raffle. **Clevedon and District DTC** raised £113 from several raffles. **Redruth DTC** raised £50, **Ginny Follies Agility Group** (Devon) raised £131 from their Christmas party/dinner. **Northern England Flatcoat Retriever Association** sent £75. **Exeter and County Canine Society** raised £78 from the stakes classes at their open and limit shows. **Pershore and District Canine Training Society** raised £100 from their companion dog show in December - again very well done in all that snow! The Chilterns Branch of **The English Shetland Sheepdog Club** raised £50. And sad news, **Fakenham and District Dog Club in Norfolk**, who have supported us handsomely over the years, have closed the Club - they sent one last magnificent donation of £1,623.69.

Once again, you've all been amazing. Thank you so much for your wonderful efforts on our behalf - you've paid for hydrotherapy, aromatherapy, acupuncture, new winter coats (lots of them!), beds and beanbags, breakfast, lunches and dinners, vets and lots of treats, new windows and doors, and so much more - all that you raise is spent on Cinnamon pets, in sanctuary or in foster, and means we can always be best at caring. Bless you all and please don't stop!

Pet Friendly Care Homes

We've sent assessors to all 852 of our pet friendly care homes, our star ratings on the best 500 have been adjusted as necessary and the result is Pet Friendly Care Homes - Star Rated! 3rd Edition. Available now for £3.50.

For the first time included in the book are the best 50 "independent living" facilities. These haven't been star-rated this time but will be when we do it all again next year!

We now look forward to the Pet Friendly Care Home of The Year awards later in the year!



Volunteer View

Charlie belongs to **Linda Simpson-Hall** in (Devon) and both his sets of volunteers want to write about him!

First, **Tony** and **Isobel Jackson**:

"As my family love animals, my daughter and I decided to volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust to help people that are unable to look after their pets. We have pets of our own; whippet, min schnauzer, cat, and not to forget the two hamsters and 3 goldfish!!! We know how people love their pets and it must be a dilemma for them if they are no longer able to look after them.

Soon after joining the Trust this year, we were contacted and asked if we could help walk Charlie. From the moment we saw him, we knew that we would be great friends. He has a super temperament and he is so intelligent. His owner Linda has been unwell for some time and it is a relief for her knowing that she has the help looking after Charlie, so she does not have to worry that he will not get his exercise. He is a great companion for Linda, a caring, clever and well behaved dog. When we take him for walks, he brings a smile to our faces because he has many expressions on his face! Like most dogs he has a fascination for squirrels. With his cross breeding of spaniel and collie, he has all the attributes of both breeds and often stops by a tree looking up to see if he can see any squirrels and often looks across to you as if to say "right, if you see any, give us a nod, I've got the tree covered". He is not at all bothered by other dogs, even the aggressive

ones he just gives a stare and carries on. You have to see him to appreciate him. I know Linda misses taking him for long walks like she used to but she knows he is getting plenty of exercise and interaction with the outside world. When we get back I'll often talk to Linda about the wildlife we have seen and what Charlie has been up to, at which point, Charlie sits on my feet as if to say "now you've got to stay". Linda is a lovely person and she loves Charlie so much that she would do anything to keep him, so that is why we are happy to be working with The Cinnamon Trust knowing that owners such as Linda are reassured that their pets are well and truly looked after, whilst at the same time they can still have their adored pets in the comfort of their homes.



Charlie

Being a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust has given an insight of how valuable The Trust is for people like Linda and her dog Charlie, not only that, but we have also gained two new friends!!!"

And now **Nigel Beere:**

"Dog walking was never my idea of fun as I am more of a cat person but I reluctantly agreed when Julie volunteered our services to The Cinnamon Trust. Soon we were introduced to Linda and her dog, Charlie, a spaniel and collie mishmash.

It is not difficult to describe Charlie. He is friendly, intelligent, lovable, perceptive, persistent and a devotee of muddy puddles. He always returns from walks with a selection of flora attached to his rear end and a stick that he refuses to surrender. He lives life to the full and encourages those around him to do the same. Whatever you give him he returns three fold. It took no time at all to fall under Charlie's spell. We have made several videos of our trips so that Linda can follow his progress.

Linda proved to be equally endearing. Despite her health problems, she maintains a magnificent sense of humour and a fiercely positive attitude. Julie and I soon became extremely fond of her and I am delighted to report that we are now good friends.

We fully understand what Charlie means to Linda and appreciate the love and support that he provides to her. Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust, she is able to keep her companion by her side and we are proud to be a small part of the process. It is not an exaggeration to say that we have gained as much from this relationship as Linda and Charlie have."

This is from **Derek** and **Maureen Edwards** in Norfolk:

“We have been volunteers for The Trust for about 10 years whilst both working full-time and, therefore, unable to have a dog of our own. During this time, we met some wonderful people and their pets and enjoyed helping when we could. Since moving to Norfolk, we are both semi-retired and have more time to help in promoting the charity and doing various fundraising activities.



Paddy

We first met Paddy and Eileen about two and a half years ago, when a neighbor of ours mentioned that Eileen needed some help walking her terrier, and so we went along to meet Eileen to tell her about The Trust, which she had never heard of. We thought Paddy was a lovely dog as soon as we saw him and so did our rescue terrier, Fred. So we started walking Paddy for Eileen, calling for him on the way round with Fred. We are very lucky to have some great walks in our area and Paddy is always ready to go and enjoys socialising with all the other dogs. He is a perfect dog to walk, can be off the lead all the time on the footpaths and

responds very well to “a little something in our pocket”!

Paddy has been Eileen's much-loved companion for a number of years and is an honorary, self- taught “hearing dog” as Eileen has severe hearing problems and, living on her own, Paddy is her lifeline. Eileen was always worried what would happen to Paddy if she was unable to continue living at home and we quickly reassured her that we would foster Paddy if this became necessary. In fact, when Eileen had a recent holiday with her daughters, we had Paddy to stay for the week and he immediately settled in with his best friend, Fred.

We always enjoy our walks with Paddy and Fred and then have a coffee and a chat afterwards with Eileen, not to mention the odd custard tart! We get Paddy's food and treats, take him for his haircuts and also to the vet so Eileen does not need to worry about anything, she can just enjoy his company! Eileen is always very keen to hear about our fundraising and she helps us by donating goods for our bric-a-brac stalls and boosting our funds. Eileen is a lovely lady, very interesting to talk to, with lots of stories, and it has been real pleasure to help both of them.”



Nicola Holder in Devon writes:

"Polly died just over two years ago. She was so very beautiful - a standard poodle I'd waited fifty years for although she was not new when she arrived - and there had been more than one long-lived rescue dog in those intervening years. Anyway as adults we know that a dog's lifespan is shorter than a human's, and that however rich and happy our coexistence the likelihood is, barring the unforeseen, that they will go before us. Knowing that, in my opinion, helps with the grief.

As a Community Worker, mainly with older people, it's easy to see that dogs bring the same riches to many of us and somehow seem to transcend barriers. Judging by the articles in your magazine that's not a new idea. So having offered Cinnamon Trust leaflets as appropriate to patients in the course of work, and made the decision not to have a pup at least until retirement, it was automatic with Polly going to 'sign up' as a walker.

It seemed a long wait before the telephone call came. As a stereotype I had half expected an ageing and somewhat portly dog who, if encouraged, might shuffle around the park, nothing too exacting. How wrong could I be? Yes, a walker was required in the area, and no, his owner was not very mobile, and actually the dog was young... quite energetic... and believe it or not, a poodle! I couldn't believe my luck!

Noble turned out to be black and what is called a 'miniature' poodle, though there's nothing very miniature about him except stature. He's a wonderful chap, a real 'case', and the dog reference book wasn't wrong when it mentioned a 'powerfully independent personality'! He's bursting with pleasure, twinkling over the ground with ears streaming behind, gutsy and up with the big boys, and so happy to be out. Energy? Oh help! I'm a strong walker: health and stamina have improved thanks to him, but he could always take much more. Who can describe all those wonderful places that we discover together that would never have been found without him, seen as the seasons turn? Coastal paths, deep shady valleys, cornfields with larks above, and clean rivers - what a laugh when he first became confident enough to go in up to his plimsoll line but couldn't work out how to retrieve a floating ball.



Noble

So forget the shuffle around the park. However tired at the end of a day's work, everything looks better after an hour with him.

The next unanticipated surprise has been Noble's human, called Doreen: lose that stereotype too. What a delightful lady, tirelessly active to benefit the community, and thoughtful kindness itself despite health issues that mean needing to use crutches, and then only short distances. The pleasures of that relationship have been slower to reveal themselves. In the early days I admit to wondering in passing why someone with mobility problems would get a dog. Doreen had explained that a severe infection of the heart muscles contracted in the past meant, among other things, that anaesthetic was not an option. It was later, over a delicious supper at her place, she mentioned that previously whilst helping a lad he had maliciously thrown something heavy at her and shattered both her kneecaps. Walking Noble initially had not been a problem but has become so, and of course surgery is not an option. That's a bit humbling too. Despite the pain Doreen does not complain. It's great to know she's a friend."



Megan Jenkins in West Midlands writes:

"Pippa is a little bundle of energy and joy. Whenever I come to collect her, she hears my voice and greets me on legs that seem to have pogo springs in them and excited barks. Sometimes it is hard to put her lead on as she squirms and wriggles with anticipation. We go out and she trots jauntily beside me and only stops to sniff deeply at every interesting scent. With her short legs and inquisitive mind, walking any distance is a slow process but a fun one.

I grew up with Border Collies and so little Pippa is very different. She is my first assignment from Cinnamon Trust and I am so glad to be able to help by walking her. I work long hours and so would never have a dog of my own (they like company too much). Pippa gives me a chance to spend some valuable time with man's (& woman's) best friend even though I cannot care for a dog of my own. At the end of long or stressful days, I can unwind and remember the important things in life. I know how much Iris and her daughter, Wendy, appreciate my help, but I'm not sure who benefits more: me, Pippa or Iris and Wendy. If you are unsure about whether to volunteer, I would encourage you to do it. Your life will be all the richer."

...and **Pippa** had something to say too!

"Hello, my name is Pippa and this is my story - or part of it.

This is a picture of me and my "sister" Carli on one of my holidays in Devon - I'm the little one! We were both rescued from the same centre at the same time by

two members of the same family, a mother and daughter, nearly 5 years ago.

My new Mum was Iris who was an elderly lady in her 80's who was still quite active. After losing her staffie and always having had dogs in her life, she was looking for a smaller older dog as a companion. Unfortunately for my Mum little older dogs like me were hard to come by it seems in Birmingham, but



Pipa with Carli

fortunately for me having been waiting for weeks in a rescue kennel near Abergavenny, she came all the way to get me.

My Mum was on her own after losing her husband and son within a year of each other and with me being on my own we were perfectly suited to keep each other company for the rest of our lives. I am an older dog who doesn't need lots of exercise but still loves to chase a ball and go walkies - in fact I get very excited when I see my lead come out!

About 12 months after I settled into my new home my Mum was taken ill and was forced to stay upstairs in bed for nearly 3 months and so my walkies were suddenly cut short. My Mum is no longer upstairs and now has a bedroom downstairs which is great as I get to sleep on the bed! She is however confined to the house and can't walk very far. Fortunately Wendy (Iris's daughter) heard through a friend about The Cinnamon Trust and she contacted them. They were so helpful and were delighted to try and help me with my walkies problem and set about finding some help. Brilliant - I was going to get to go walking again!!

The Cinnamon Trust phoned not long after to say they had found a couple of volunteers happy to walk me. I now see my lovely friend Megan, who manages to fit in a walk with me after a very hectic day at the office, and sometimes I see Rosina. I'm now a very happy little dog; I love people and squeak with delight at visitors hoping each one is a new volunteer to take me out.

Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust my Mum no longer feels as guilty about not being able to take me out and I get the best of everything! I curl up and cuddle on my Mum's bed with her and I get to go walkies with my Cinnamon Trust friends. I am

like my Mum, slowing up rapidly as I get older and someday will not be able to walk as far however I am so happy now I just lie on my back and “wiggle” for all I'm worth to show off.

A big thank you to all those at The Cinnamon Trust who work tirelessly for dogs like me and owners like my Mum who can't cope without your help. I get to stay with my Mum which is where I want to be, a far cry from the unloved, mistreated little dog that ended up in rescue kennels. So thank you again, long may you continue helping us all.”



Snowy by name, and snowy by nature! So says intrepid volunteer **David Hollingsworth** in Suffolk:

“Here is a tale to warm all of us in the current cold snap! I am a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust in Suffolk and having only started have not had the chance to assist yet. That all changed very quickly with a phone call from the Trust mid-afternoon when temperatures had plummeted outside and there was talk of airports closing, drivers being stranded and transport generally grinding to a halt!

The situation was that a cat - called Snowy - was languishing in a cattery local to me after his elderly owner had died. The mission - to deliver him to a housebound lady, a passionate cat lover - who was desperate for the company of a loving feline having tragically lost her beloved cat 6 weeks previously. Suffolk to Blackheath on a good run is 2 hours - in driving snow and bad conditions, who knows? We were to find out! I agreed, nervously, thinking about what I had to do, when I could make the trip and of course with an eye on the weather. Known for my spontaneity I spoke to the kennels immediately to find out that the cat had indeed a fantastic nature - but there was another issue - the people responsible for the cats at the Boarding Kennels were not going to be around if I wanted to go there and then - only the dog loving husband would be around! OK - so let me speak to the recipient. She was desperate but understood the potential challenge as it was snowing heavily in her area. In Suffolk, although cold - the roads were clear! Something in my compassion clicked, decision made, adventure on!

Fortunately I had a Spanish friend staying with me to keep me company - we rushed over to the cattery, and collected Snowy - a beautiful, calm, aristocratic cat, and away the three of us went. With increasingly bad conditions on the road, we were getting concerned about progress - but we had made a commitment and the recipient was so excited about meeting her new companion and there was no going back! After a few wrong turns and with help from Maureen the recipient over the phone, we reached her front door, thrilled to have struggled through the snow and bad conditions, to be greeted by a lovely lady who already had the kettle on for us!

Snowy cautiously came out but understandably hid behind a chair while we chatted. That is where we left him after our tea and with an eye on the weather, we started the return journey. The look of delight on Maureen's face, the gratitude and the sheer happiness was worth making that trip. We got home safely - albeit very late, with a report from Maureen that Snowy was exploring, had eaten and made himself at home. The opportunity of having this experience was why I am a Cinnamon volunteer - the feeling is priceless and we are all winners. Snowy was happy, Maureen was happy and we were more than happy to have helped out on a very snowy night!"



When short-term foster turns into long-term foster... **Janet Robinson** in Hertfordshire just couldn't say "no"!

"In Oct 2008 we received a phone call from the Cinnamon Trust to ask if we could foster two 11 year old Chihuahuas for 2 weeks. It was urgent as their owner Alice was in hospital and they were alone in the house. How could we say no! We collected the two gorgeous sisters, short-haired Chloe and hairy Hannah. For our daughter Anna, now 11, it was love at first sight, our Jack Russell Elsa wasn't so sure... what were these feisty dog-like creatures? A week or two later and they were a pack of three, the weeks turned into months and Alice was still in hospital. I took the dogs to visit Alice in the elderly care unit a couple of times before the new matron said they were "unhygienic" and we had to meet up in the lobby! Alice eventually returned home in March 2009 but was totally dependant on carers, it was clear that she could not look after the girls and she was keen that they stayed with us where she knew they were happy. How could we say no!

...and so they stayed, they are very much part of our family, and I try to take them to visit Alice once a week. Our family has gained two little characters and the friendship of a lovely lady, and Alice still has the dogs in her life and gets much pleasure from them."

PS **Alice** says:

"I couldn't be happier with the way Hannah and Chloe are being looked after and I look forward to seeing them each week. If it wasn't for The Cinnamon Trust I would have lost touch with my girls."



Chloe and Hannah

Ann Godfrey in West Sussex writes:

My first meeting with Pip in March 2009 was not exactly what I had expected. The Cinnamon Trust had asked me to walk him as his owners were no longer able to. I had arranged our first walk with Pip's owner Marie and just as I was about to set off I received a call from someone at The Cinnamon Trust headquarters informing me that unfortunately Marie had been rushed into hospital with a broken wrist. Marie's husband Norman had sadly already been moved to a nursing home so there was no one at home to look after Pip.

I volunteered to short-term foster Pip until he could be reunited with Marie, as long as he got on with my 13 year old cat Thomasina. Marie's son met me at the house and I spent some time playing with Pip so that he could get used to me as he was a bit nervous. I then took Pip for a walk in his familiar country park. I had been told that Pip was scared of other dogs, how true! He kept close to me, looking neither left nor right and with no sniffing on the way! He did however pull away from other dogs.

On arriving home, I was pleased to see that Pip and Thomasina got on fine. Pip did smell her food, which was up on top of the washing machine, and proceeded to leap up to help himself!

I visited Marie in hospital and kept her informed as to how Pip was doing. She had unfortunately developed ulcerated legs and it was clear when she was finally released from hospital that Pip would now be too much for her to cope with and I immediately spoke to The Cinnamon Trust and offered to become Pip's long term foster. Since then Marie's daughter has brought Marie over to visit Pip at my house and I have also taken Pip to visit Norman in the nursing home.

Pip is a real character and he loves his squeaky toys, hence his nickname of Pipsqueak! He has become a lot more confident with other dogs, his best friend being an 18 month old Jack Russell. They go 'bananas' together, chasing each other round and round the garden, it's a great game. Pip expects a treat when we get home from walks, and also when he has 'looked after the house' for me if I have had to go out. I've taught him to shake a paw before his treats, big mistake! He now waves a paw around whenever he thinks a treat is due. Pip is also yet to grasp the fact that dentastix are for cleaning his teeth after food, not in the middle of his meal when he again starts to wave a paw about.

Another amusing thing is Pip and his beds! He has a large cushion in the kitchen and a large plastic basket with a bean bag in the living room. Both of them have coverlets which he insists on burying himself under until he is totally invisible. This proves more difficult in the basket as the covers get pushed to the back. He gets in and then 'moans' until I get myself out of my recliner to cover him over. Bed

time is a different routine again. He waits for me to pick up the covers and then tuck him in! He is onto a good thing; my last dog wasn't waited on like this!

I wasn't going to have another pet until I lost Thomasina and I am so glad that she and Pip get on so well. Pip is keeping me fit and will hopefully still be my companion once Thomasina has gone so thank you Norman and Marie and Cinnamon Trust for such a lovely boy.



Pip and Thomasina dine together



Liz Kidd in Gloucestershire was a perfect foster for **Sally** - read on!

“Having rabbits for over 34 years I have never met a one eared bunny until I met Sally. The CT rang desperately trying to find a fosterer for an older, one eared rabbit. Her owner had suffered a stroke and her temporary feeders were no longer able to help. All she needed was a hutch in a warm shed. I had both of these so found myself spending the day sorting out my animal shed to accommodate her, instead of Christmas shopping! I collected Sally from a quaint Cotswold village where she had been braving the snow. At first glance I saw a sweet, if peculiar, looking rabbit that was obviously much loved. I don't think she appreciated my driving as she threw hay over the car seat on the journey home! Sally is now settling in well. She enjoys visiting her “neighbours” the guinea pigs and loves a cuddle with my six year old daughter! Her 90 year old owner is still unwell but Sally is a happy, loving sociable and gentle little rabbit who has stolen our hearts and is so welcome to stay.”



Sally

The view from both sides - **Graham Clark** in West Sussex walks **Josh**, he says:

"I have been walking Josh for some years now in conjunction with 3 other volunteers. I first became a volunteer walker when we moved to the south coast



from Cheshire. We had recently lost our much loved Welsh Springer Spaniel, Megan. It was not practical for us to have another dog as we both work and I spend a lot of my time travelling around the country. The Trust therefore offered a perfect opportunity for me to maintain my canine therapy! Since then I have walked a number of dogs including Jack, the Dalmatian and his successor Jemma the Labrador.

Josh is a unique character. He is a truly wonderful companion for his owner Sally. Failing health means that she can no longer take him for walks but Josh understands this and patiently waits to see which of his walkers will be arriving to take him out. He has his

chores to complete in the house. This includes ensuring squirrels and 'bad birds' (pigeons and crows) do not take the food put out for 'good birds'. He is quite the ornithologist in his ability to tell the difference. He will bring the post from the front door for Sally to open but strangely, always seems to leave the letter from the Vets on the door-mat!

Sally has trained Josh very well and he is a pleasure to take out either on or off his lead. He does have little idiosyncrasies. When out with my wife Kate and I, he will place himself between us if he sees a larger dog. Even scarier for him is children playing football. I am not sure why this is but it is just another aspect of his uniqueness. He does not make friends easily with other dogs, partly I suspect because he considers himself more human than canine.

He is so talkative when anyone arrives to take him for walks that conversation with Sally is impossible. On return, however, he will join her on the settee whilst Sally and I catch up on each other's news. Despite her ill health Sally remains resolutely optimistic, something she shares with Josh. He is always certain that I have one more dog treat in my pocket. I know that Sally is so appreciative of the help and support The Trust gives her and Josh. I, in return, value counting Sally and Josh as friends. They are both very special."

And **Sally Cobden** writes:

"Thank you for our call last week. Josh, I might have said before, thinks the phone is his. He might be halfway down the garden but when he hears it he dashes in and sits on 'his' corner of the settee. If a voice is recognised, he sits and waits for the caller to arrive. As I explained to you on the phone, all of the volunteers have different names to their own on the phone when they are talked about in Josh's presence otherwise Josh will sit and wait for them to turn up all day. He doesn't whine or make a fuss, just sits quietly and hopefully.

We owe you so much for not only the happiness and peace of mind, but also for the friends that Josh and I have made. It's truly great.

At 92, old friends have a habit of departing before you do. The new friends we have made through The Cinnamon Trust are so much of a comfort.

Thank you from Sally and Josh."



And now to catch up with some of our lifelong foster pets

Barbara Brown in (Norfolk) and her husband **John** are having fun with **Nikki**, Barbara writes:

"A little miracle entered our lives earlier this year when 12 year old Westie Nikki joined our family.

We fell in love with Nikki when we first met him at his short term carer's home. Nikki is a most delightful old gentleman who is very well behaved, calm and relaxed seeming to fit in with whatever situation he finds himself in. He encourages my husband and I to take him out walking to the sea or to the woods - he likes both. He loves socialising with other dogs large or small and he immediately became firm friends with his neighbour - a golden Labrador.

We feel privileged to care for Nikki in his twilight years - he brings such pleasure -



Nikki

having his playful moments as well as his mischievous moments. One such adventure happened when Nikki's innate curiosity got the better of him and he sneaked in next door (where we share a garden) to explore their house and visit his golden Labrador friend. Unfortunately our neighbour was putting her little son into her car and did not see Nikki walk in. Off she went to collect her other children from school not knowing that Nikki was locked inside. We immediately realised what had happened and were texting our neighbour to warn her she had

an extra visitor in her house. Her children thought it hilarious when they came home and saw his little face peering out at them through their own door!

When Nikki wants to play he nudges us or brings us his toy duck or rabbit to share. He has settled in very well into his new home and also enjoys going away with us and staying in dog friendly hotels where he charms everyone he meets. Being long term foster carers has been a rewarding experience and one we would recommend - our lives have changed for the better having this little ray of sunshine in our home”.



And **Fred** has been living the high life in Cannes with **Christine Parker** (Lancashire):

“I set off for our trip to France with Fred who came to me after his owner had passed away. Fred is such a loving dog and so intelligent and I love him to bits.

Setting off from the channel tunnel terminal at Folkstone, we travelled 3000 miles staying at many places. The Dordogne region of France for a few nights and then heading down to St-Paul-De-Vence, a medieval hilltop village in the South of France. He was welcomed into the famous Le Columbe D'or restaurant, arguably the most famous restaurant in France. Many eating establishments in France do allow dogs.

Spending 6 days there we moved onto Antibes and then Cannes where the annual Film Festival was taking place. Fred had his photo taken in front of the Carlton Hotel which has a banner blazen across it advertising The Last Airbender film.

On the final leg of our journey back to northern France he spent a few days in Le Touquet (Paris on Sea) a very fashionable place with the French people and also the English.

Fred also enjoyed many walks especially in the beautiful parks. I would recommend anyone to take their dog abroad. Organising a pet passport is straight forward!"



Fred at home.....



.....and in Cannes



Tiny little **Tilly** has well and truly stolen the hearts of **Mike** and **Norma Mayne** in Devon:

"Tilly came into our lives on the 18th August 2010 after the death of her previous owner. We have always had Yorkies and after a gap of one year that big gap was filled with the smallest and most well behaved of the line so far.

She really is the 'bees knees', and although she has just one eye, never misses a trick.

I think she must have a bit of squirrel in her, because most of her chews never get eaten they just get buried behind cushions etc!

The photo shows her in pride of place guarding the best seat in the house!



Tilly

She loves her walks and although small and nearly nine years old is always out in front.

Thank you so much Cinnamon Trust.”



And here is how a few of those we help feel:

Elsie Pitman in Hampshire writes:

“Thanks for all the wonderful help you have been giving Ted and me. I really couldn't have managed without it and the wonderful dog walkers that come to take Ted. Ted loves them and they love Ted, he was so used to long walks, which I can't do now. I have been so lucky, because I've made some lovely friends sharing cups of tea and biscuits when they come with Ted from his walking, then he has a good contented sleep.

Bless you for making Ted so happy, he's never had so much attention”.



Elizabeth Blakemore in Kent says:

“I cannot begin to tell you what a difference this has made to Domino, myself and my daughter Ruth. Until she became disabled after an accident last October Domino was having four walks a day.

When she could no longer take him out he became very depressed, stopped eating and spent all day just lying in his basket.

Now he is happy, eating well again, and loves Janet, our volunteer. I have been telling as many people about the wonderful work that The Trust does, and I know that one of the volunteers who comes in to prepare lunch for Ruth when I am out has put her name forward to be a volunteer weekend walker.

Very grateful thanks for the help and support we are getting”.



Jo Crossley in North Yorkshire wrote:

“I felt I must write and try to express my deepest gratitude to you and The Cinnamon Trust for giving me peace of mind, regarding the fostering of my beloved

dogs **Penny** and **Bruce**, if needed after the 21st Oct. You will never know the great relief your kindness and understanding has brought to me. I honestly feel that I can cope with anything now, knowing that they will be loved and cared for. Whilst I have some dear friends none are in a position to be able to help me with the dogs, but they are giving me support in other ways, which is a great comfort.



Penny and Bruce

Dogs have been my life, and it is wonderful to realise that others have this passion. How fortunate we are to share our lives with all animals and know their love and trust. It was that terrible feeling that I may betray that trust, if you had not been there to help which was so devastating.

God Bless you all.”



Diane Powell is in East Sussex, she says:

“I feel I must write again and thank you for finding me Judy and Roger my fantastic dog walkers. Not only do they turn up in all weathers and it has been horrific, but they are there to take my beautiful Airedales to the vet if necessary. I am a 24 hour carer, my husband is paralysed and has dementia, so I have not been out of the house for almost three years. It can get very lonely but thanks to Judy and Roger and of course my gorgeous Airedales, I manage to keep going and I have made two wonderful friends.



Jonty and Lottie

Thank you Cinnamon Trust.”

Volunteers who have received our Gold Award for exceptional service are:

Jeanette Simpson (Devon), **Sheila Tibble** (East Sussex), **Ruth** and **Alan Gostelow** (Surrey), **Brian Embleton** (Somerset), **Jean Oake** (Cornwall), **Mark Chyanchuk** (Leicestershire), **Margaret Haines** (London), **Diana Cundall** (Hampshire), **Jenny Thornton** (Warwickshire) **Carol Lambert** (Hertfordshire).

To all our registered volunteers everywhere, thank you. Come rain, come shine, come snow and more snow, you've been there - each and every one a true ambassador for The Trust and we couldn't bring the joy, happiness, fun, comfort, love and peace into the lives of over 25,000 people and 30,000 pets a year without you - please take a bow you are brilliant!!



Now here are two very moving tributes. The first is from **Ann Bennett** on behalf of Jake's owner **Mr Ted Champ** of Gloucester.

A Tribute to Jake

"I have had the pleasure of owning or being acquainted with many animals in my life. All of them have been memorable but a few stand out as being exceptional, one such dog is Jake.

I fell in love with Jake when Ted came to my house with an adorable bundle of puppy several years ago - we were never sure what cross breed Jake was, but a bearded collie was mentioned.

Over the years Jake and Ted were inseparable and understood each other so well with Jake's loyalty and love helping Ted through so many bad times including being very lonely living on his own and a break-up in family relations.

About three years ago Ted began to show signs of dementia and relevant medical assessments were made as to whether Ted could still live on his own.

It was only the fact that he looked after Jake so well and it was felt that the loss of his dog would be detrimental that Ted was able to do so. As a friend, I was asked to sit in on these assessments to give Ted some moral support. I was redundant really, as Jake sat throughout, tight up to Ted's knees and looked from one to the other as if understanding all that was said. Whoever came to the house Jake always greeted them with his body language telling them how welcome they were, he made us all feel special. Yet if he thought that anyone might be a threat to Ted, such as a different nurse doing dressings, he would remain very vigilant.

Jake saved Ted's life several years ago, when youths pushed a burning rag through the letterbox. Thanks to Jake's barking, the alarm was raised and Ted and Jake were rescued. Gradually dementia was worsening last year and a care plan was set up by the social worker so that help was available daily. A special care plan was set up for Jake, too, so that it was made sure that he was fed and I was designated to make sure his health was monitored. But Ted never failed to exercise the dog even though sometimes it was a struggle.

At times the two of them would go on a very long walk when I suspect Ted got lost. One weekend they were noticed wandering along a dual carriageway the police contacted me to pick them up. I found Ted leaning against the police car, but there was Jake sitting in the back of the police car melting the hearts of the boys in blue! They thought the dog looked tired, never mind Ted!

Before Ted's first fall a big police hunt was set in motion when Ted and Jake had been seen leaving home early morning to walk to the local shop and had not returned. They were found three miles away early evening after a radio appeal for sightings. This was thanks to people remembering 'the gorgeous friendly dog'. Ted would not go into a café and leave Jake outside for fear of losing him, but people were so taken by Jake that food and water appeared outside even McDonalds!

It was only a relatively short time ago I picked up a leaflet about the valuable work of The Cinnamon Trust and remembering this I suggested to Ted that he might like to subscribe, which he did, not dreaming that he would have to call on them for help so soon.

In the past when my husband was alive, if Ted had to go into hospital for a brief period we would have Jake at our house.

In the middle of this year I had a call from paramedics at 3am telling me that Ted had fallen and been rushed to hospital and by the way they said - 'there is a dog there'. I brought Jake back with me and looked after him much to the dismay of my pampered cat who gave me evil looks wondering who was invading her territory!

I was about to go on holiday so Jake went to kennels for a short time. On return I contacted The Cinnamon Trust to see if they could help in any way as it was obvious that Ted would be in hospital for a long stay as he had broken his hip very badly.

What wonderful people they are at The Cinnamon Trust - so caring, efficient and quick to act and always a joy to speak to on the phone. Within 24 hours they had located a volunteer foster home which I took Jake to. This was with a nice lady



Jake

but unfortunately Jake could not stay there very long as he was acting in a very ungentlemanly way towards her timid bitch! Jake looked so sad when he left there.

But once again Jake was found another foster home almost immediately with a lovely man, Martin who is an osteopath, and his family. They came outside to welcome Jake when I took him there. Jake looked at me with his adoring eyes, as if to say "I think these are lovely people, but I don't want you to be upset if I leave you as I love you too!". But off he bounded with his new friends. Little did I realise that would be the last time I would see him.

As time went on it became clear that Ted would not be able to live alone again, and a place was found in a nursing home. I had told The Trust earlier, that if this situation arose, I would like to consider adopting Jake. How I agonised over this. On one hand my love for Jake to be with me permanently and on the other the look of joy on his face when I last saw him with a young active family. I tried to think what Ted would want me to do. By this time Ted had been through so much trauma that it was difficult to hold a proper conversation with him and he was unable to make decisions. It shows how deeply engrained the love between Ted and Jake still is though, because sometime the only way I or carers can get Ted to respond is to talk about Jake. Ted will say "my lovely boy".

Martin, Jake's foster carer was then told the situation, and I understand that he and his family had become so attached to Jake they said yes to "adoption". I believe one thing that really clinched things, was that early in the fostering Martin went on a pre-arranged holiday and Jake went to kennels as I was also away. Evidently when he returned, Jake greeted him like a long lost friend!

Ted settled well into the home, but the dementia is so advanced that he doesn't really know where he is. Sadly Ted fell again and broke his hip two weeks ago and is once again in hospital. He has been a friend of my family for many years, so it is a sad situation with an uncertain future.

I'm sure Ted would wish to know that Jake's future is secure. I was told by The Cinnamon Trust recently that Jake is one happy boy. He really deserves that for the love and devotion he has shown.

A big 'thank you' from me to all at Cinnamon Trust, and all the volunteer fosterers and 'adopters'. I know Ted would endorse this if he were able to.

Long may your wonderful work continue and I shall always sing your praises and support your efforts whenever I can. I hope one day to be able to offer to foster (with Pebble, my cat's permission!) or to dog walk (after I get my knee replacement next spring)!"



And this was sent in by our good friend **Arnold Becker** in Co. Durham who has **Wiz** and **Woz** on lifelong foster.

Tribute to a Cinnamon Trust Volunteer

"Dolly passed away last summer after spending her later years quietly grazing in her paddock or in the valley close to her home.

She did not set out to become a Cinnamon helper but her pleasant nature endeared her to the walkers and their dogs in the valley. Many dogs (including Wiz and Woz) chase horses. Dolly would just stand quietly looking at the miscreants so that the dogs would themselves quieten down. I was able to let Wiz and Woz approach her off the lead they would either walk gently past or maybe sniff around her a little before continuing on their way. Many dogs, Wiz and Woz included, would sneak in to the farrier's yard and pick up a piece of hoof that had been trimmed from some horse being re-shoed. Woz decided to short circuit the process and would attempt to chew Dolly's hooves whilst she stood there patiently.

Soon after Wiz and Woz arrived nearly three years ago, the river bank collapsed following heavy storms and Wiz fell onto a ledge only inches above the raging river. The blacksmith, Jack Bell, arrived with Dolly and some ropes, and was lowered down the sheer bank to rescue her.



Dolly

Mind you, Dolly did expect some recompense for her efforts with the dogs. When she saw us approaching, she would station herself directly facing us and shuffle sideways to prevent us passing without paying a toll of a carrot or two.

She effectively tamed the way that many dogs approached horses and we, and others, can now pass horses without problems. Her good deeds extended beyond her help with dogs. As you can see from the picture, taken in her younger

days, she was also happy to help with the two legged animals. She patiently allowed herself to be used as a guinea pig in the training of would be farriers.

Goodbye Dolly”.



Just Meant To Be?

Bill Pringle in Devon writes:

Two of a Kind

“His name was Jasper, he was a Border Collie and he was 13 years old. When he moved to the great kennel in the sky some years ago, I decided I would not have another dog. I had plans for some serious travelling and, approaching 60 myself, I had some concerns about what would happen if a new dog outlived me. What would happen to him? Could I be sure he'd be well cared for?

The years rolled by. Having done some travelling and being effectively retired, I went looking for opportunities for voluntary work. My preference was something to do with animals and I quickly discovered The Cinnamon Trust. It's a charity which provides practical help for elderly pet owners - dog walking, transport to the vet etc and long term care for their beloved pets.

I visited one of The Trust's sanctuaries, to find dogs and cats (and a couple of goats!) living in comfortable, purpose-built accommodation. The main buildings - one for dogs, one for cats - are designed and furnished as enormous, open plan sitting rooms. Armchairs, settees, rugs, TV's - and each animal contentedly enjoying its own space.

Almost immediately I was asked to help with walking a boisterous Staffie whose elderly owner could no longer manage. Over the next two years I also helped transport numerous dogs and cats, to or from foster homes or to one of The Trust's sanctuaries. Often I was asked if I could foster a dog - or two or three. Each time, reluctantly, I had to say 'no', either because I had further plans or because the dogs in question would not have fitted my domestic set-up (a very small house on a working farm).

Still, I told Cinnamon to keep asking. One day, perhaps, with the right animal in the right circumstances To be honest, I was far from sure that any animal and circumstance would ever make the ideal combination. Then, another call from The Trust. Even before they gave me details, I felt that this time I could say 'yes'. A dog in urgent need of a foster-home, his lady owner in hospital. After a couple of

nights in kennels, he was being cared for by his vet. Immediately, I went to collect him.

The vet opened the kennel door and the dog sauntered out. He briefly sniffed my knees, licked my hand and climbed into my car without any fuss. When I got him home, he had a quick look around the house, lay down on the bed I'd made for him and was soon fast asleep.



Jasper

Three months later and he's still with me. Sadly, his owner will need permanent residential care. The dog has settled perfectly into my routine and it feels, in many ways, as if he's been with me for years. He's a Border Collie, he's 13 years old and his name is Jasper"



Happy Endings ...

Ivy Shannon in Lincoln has sent this:

"We would like to thank you for your tremendous support in helping us to 'take on' another dog in our old age. After just one month with Becky our home has become alive and normal again. We are just thrilled with this supposedly 'elderly' lurcher cross. No-one has told Becky she is elderly and walks and ball games are her main delight. She moves with a lovely jaunty spring in her step and charms everyone she meets with her friendliness and obedience. She has plenty of tricks in store if she gets bored in the house, just to keep us laughing we guess.

Our little jack Russell died on September 1st aged 14, she looked so like Becky but with short legs!"



Becky



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Santa needed his sleigh and all his reindeer for his visit to Hillside at Christmas. Once again heavy and unexpected snow fell the week before and transformed the sanctuary into a Winter Wonderland. We were cut off from the outside world for more than ten days but we were well stocked with food and fuel, we had our turkeys, all our presents were wrapped, decorations were up, so the only thing we could so was to “get into the Christmas spirit” and keep warm. All the canine residents had new equafleece coats wrapped up under the Christmas tree, so they were allowed to unwrap one gift each early so they could make use of the coats. How welcome they were and how gorgeous they all looked in their bright coats of many colours and designs. Waterproof and warm, they were able to frolic in the snow without getting cold or wet! The felines, not great lovers of things



Peggy

white and icy, decided to create their own Christmas festivities indoors..... The favourite game was dragging tinsel off the tree by the throat and pouncing on it to stop it wiggling, and then parading it around for all the others to see their “prize”. Two wind up mice from Santa also proved to be a great success, they were so realistic, and they had to be rescued time after time from the jaws of death. **Miss Peggy** our little Persian is a real tyke; she just can't sit still and even when she attempts to, every part of her twitches. She enjoyed stalking birds in the garden in summer but throughout the winter she has been in pursuit of mice of every description. She has also been training for the Grand National. A small low sofa was recently placed in her favourite room and during a mad half hour every night she

races around the room, jumping on and off all the furniture down onto the floor and over the sofa as if it is a fence on the race track. She is the most comical, energetic and feisty of our feline family, giving us lots of entertainment!

Zara a gorgeous brindle little Lurcher (14) joined our family at the end of August. She has eyes like saucers which she uses to great effect and she sings constantly. The singing gets louder near to dinner time, crescendos at walk time and drops to a little whimper at bedtime together with the “eyes” to ensure she gets that “extra” gravy bone treat. Most of the day she is a couch potato curled up in a tight ball on her favourite bed inside Linda's house. Sleep is her favourite past time and alas only eating interferes with that!!! She loves comfort and always seeks out the cosiest, softest beds, not worried if someone else is already in it, she manages to squeeze herself in too. When she is out on a walk she ambles along initially sniffing and daydreaming..... then finding herself left behind she suddenly flies past you

like a rocket, looking every bit like a prized greyhound! Her weakness is scratching her back, and if you can't find her on a walk, look to the nearest bush and you will find her getting a back scratch with absolute ecstasy on her face. She is bouncy and full of energy and often tries to coax the older boys into chasing or playing with her, but I think having seen her in "action" they all know they won't be able to keep up!

We also welcomed **Bilco** (Billy) a white and tan long legged Jack Russell (14) at the beginning of November. Another little fire cracker with a personality to match. He doesn't like to exert himself too much by going on walks, but does zip around the property and garden making sure he isn't missing out on any action. He has become obsessed with sausages and ensures every time the fridge opens he is right in front of it - in case they are coming out. He has to get past **Henri** Dachs who is the self appointed Sausage King but having the benefit of full sight and longer legs he does manage to outwit him - sometimes! When we sit down for our own dinner, he ensures he positions himself on the sofa right next to the one with the best menu. If anyone comes near he barks loudly (just once) to say "Back off kid this one is mine!"

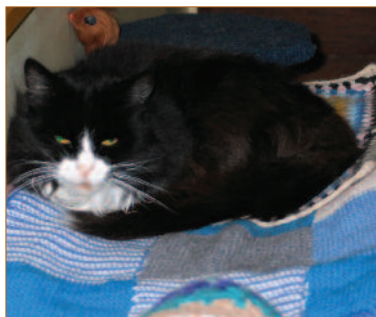
Two gorgeous cats arrived at different times, but have ended up sharing a room and often vying for the same cosy orange house. Nothing new at Hillside, but these two could be related. They are both fabulous black and white long haired beauties. **Lucy** (15) is a petite, shy girl who took up residence in the orange house first. She isn't too sure of all the other felines yet and is taking her time to get to know everyone. She has taken a shine to **Beep** and looks to him despite his blindness to be her protector and older "brother". Beep loves the attention and I think he can sense that this girl is a real cutie as he too seems to have blossomed in the months since she arrived. He even shares his cat nip banana with her (but no



Zara



Billy



Lucy

one else). She loves to sit on top of the radiator when the heating is on and she loves climbing on the logs in the garden. Other boys have come a courting, but bashful and unsure she hides behind the sofa until they give up.

Scamper (15) is a long, drop dead gorgeous boy with an amazing black smudge



Scamper

across his nose. When sitting grooming with legs akimbo, he looks like a panda! Obviously the good looks got him the orange house when he took a fancy to it, but to give him credit, he does vacate it when Lucy decides she would like to spend some time in it. When Scamper arrived he was diagnosed as being epileptic and was taking medication for it. We are so pleased that we have managed to wean him off it with no ill effects and no sign of fitting. In contrast he is a completely different cat to when

he arrived. He is playful and energetic, adventurous and flirtatious. Even though we think Lucy fancies him too, she takes good advantage of his “wanderings” to recapture the castle. Scamper loves to stretch out and fully extended he is a like a zebra crossing, he looks adorable when he lies on the arm of a sofa with two legs either side of the arm - so totally laid back - it is so hard to imagine him as he was. His “live - in” relationship with Lucy is bringing her out of her shell. Sometimes when Beep is not around she shadows him down the passage, like a jealous girlfriend just checking up on his movements! Some of the boys have been giving him dirty looks. **Murphy** who holds the title as the most handsome black and white boy in residence is not going to let him take too many liberties so often follows him around to see what he is up too.

We lost some of our most treasured “friends” in the last few months of last year.

Poppy (17) our tiny Tortie girl, who though asthmatic - lived life to the full and preferred it to be full of fish!!! **Toffee** (17) our large Tortie girl, our Hillside matriarch, she had the greatest eyes and the toughest attitude - her nightly matronly inspections of the (wards) rooms was comical to watch. **Tiggy** (18) our darling, adorable Tabby Tiger with a piece of his ear missing, he spent most of his days on the kitchen counter or in the sink and was always there to stretch out a paw in greeting. He was a little minx and his face never failed to look like he was up to “no good” and normally he was! **Deano** (12) our sweet, grey boy who came in with **Peggy** and was so affectionate and proud, with us such a short time. **Bertie** (14) a girl with a boy's name, our gorgeous ball of black and white fluff, an outrageous flirt, one of a family of seven who came to Hillside. **Jamie** (14) Bertie's sister (with a boy's name) the most beautiful black girl you could ever wish to meet, who was blind but had the most gorgeous green eyes, an affectionate, precious soul with an amazing long white whisker. **Benny** “Bub” (17) our darling little Yorkie

who gave us many years of love and was quite a feisty lad in his day, who starred on our Christmas card and was the treat ball king and **Corrie** (15) our Yorkie who thought he was a Rottweiler - small in stature but big in courage. Always in the "thick" of things. He battled many ailments but was such a tough and adorable cookie. So many larger than life characters that have left their mark on Hillside and in our hearts!

Though sadness casts a shadow when our beloved friends leave us, signs that life is still full of beauty emerge in the form of snowdrops, little fox cubs (heard but not often seen) when parents come to partake of their nightly feast of left over dog food. Deer grazing in the paddocks and pheasants dancing at dusk. Our feathered friends in the aviary have already begun preparing nests (a little early but perhaps young ones practicing) for the breeding season and our two "fair weather" boys. **Chas** and **Dermott**, the goats, have at last decided it might be safe (warm enough) to come out of the stable?!? The trees are starting to bud and every so often we get a short taste of summer - hopefully it is not too far away now as we have great plans to make the most of it - no matter how short it is!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

The snow did lay very deep and very crisp! But, we were well stocked up for Christmas and well wrapped up outside. Being snowed in for a week meant great excitement for the dogs, all in their bright red coats, frolicking, jumping in it, rolling in it, eating it, digging tunnels through it, or being carried over it! Every appetite honed to perfection for all the extra special goodies waiting in the warmth - bliss! The cats, on the other hand, apart from three-legged Pete, spurned the white stuff with a vengeance, they didn't need their appetites honing, thank you very much, nor did they need to freeze their little paws.

Fun and frolics abound at Poldarves with or without the snow but inevitably sadness visits. We've lost darling, tiny tabby **Tabitha** (15) who loved to be cuddled like a baby. And **Birley** (12) mini smooth dachshund, adorable socialite - how he loved to go out visiting to investigate other peoples homes, and how he loved his cup of tea! Then **Derry** (16) standard longhaired dachshund with his elaborate pre-meal rituals and riotous kitchen antics (designed to distract so he could steal!) and the 'Derry Roll' will go down in Poldarves history..... All so missed but we have to believe now reunited with old friends and loving owners.

We were very happy to welcome **Milly** and **Dylan**, both 13 when mum Angela went into a hospice, we kept in touch sending pictures of them settling in and enjoying themselves so she could be reassured and at peace. Milly is a Jack Russell/Sheltie cross and Dylan is a Collie/Sheltie cross but both are tiny with big



Dylan



Milly



Ferbie

hearts and characters to match. They are adorable. Milly is the boss and makes sure Dylan doesn't step out of line - he does love to socialise and he loves to play especially with his most precious dinosaur! He will gaze at us with soft, misty eyes, lift his little paw and woof at us to throw for him and off we go!

Milly is the intrepid explorer! You wouldn't believe how such a sweet little face could hide such a single-minded, determined and huge attitude! When she decides she's off to 'check the entire estate', she's off! This is in her time you understand..... She is however, totally hooked on cheese, and sausages go down well, too, and she knows one or other will be on offer when she returns!

For all their different ways, Milly and Dylan are devoted to each other and it is so sweet to see. They have outings together so they can have some 'them time' and they do so enjoy visiting National Trust Estates and the obligatory picnic!

And **Ferbie** has joined us, aged 18 and bless her heart, she TALKS. A gorgeous, gentle affectionate girl who knows exactly what she wants, and when. A real heart stealer and it is impossible to resist the call for a 'snack please', or 'more cuddles if you don't mind' and it took no time for her body clock to remind her to remind us it's time for breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper - darling girl.

Spring has definitely sprung at Poldarves with daffodils, primroses and cowslip everywhere. Six foxes partake of a nightly feast and our badger family seem to have insatiable appetites - so, we wait in hope for babies to join in their frolics on summer evenings!



Poetry Corner

Our first poem was sent in by **Lisa McCaskie** in Worcestershire. Although the circumstances are not comparable for our oldies, the sentiments are, so I am dedicating it to all our lifelong fosterers everywhere and to all our sanctuary carers.

One by One

One by one, they pass by my cage
Too old, too worn, too broken they say
Way past his time, he can't run and play
They shake their heads and go on their way
A little old man, arthritic and sore
It seems that I am wanted no more
I once had a home, I once had a bed
A place that was warm, and where I was fed
Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong
I got in their way, my attitude wrong
Now I sit in this kennel, where day after day
The young ones are chosen and taken away
When I had come to the end of my rope
You saw my face and again I knew hope
You saw past the grey, the legs wobbly with age
And felt I deserved life beyond this cage
You took me home, gave me food and a bed
You gently stroked my poor tired head
We snuggle and play, you talk to me low
You love me so dearly, and make sure I know
Although I have lived most of my life with another
You outshine them with a love so much stronger
I promise to return all the love I can give
To you my dear friend, as long as I live
I may be with you for a week, or for years
We will share many smiles, and a few tears
When the time comes, that God deems I must leave
I know you will cry and your heart it will grieve
When I arrive at the Bridge all brand new
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you
And I will brag to all who will hear
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

Thank You My Lovely Girl

God looked around his garden
and found a quiet place
He then looked down upon the earth
and saw your tired face

He put his arms around you
and lifted you to rest
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb
So he closed your weary eyes
And whispered "Peace be thine".

It broke my heart to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of me went with you
The day God called you home.



And Finally

Ever the optimist, I have great hopes for summer this year - lots of warm sunshine, balmy nights, more time to enjoy the pleasures that money can't buy with our so precious furred and feathered friends.

Very good luck with all your fundraising efforts which I know some of you have been planning for ages - may the sun shine on you. I hope you all have a lovely summer, whatever you are doing, wherever you are and whoever you're with!

God Bless everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE

Founder and Chief Executive