

---

# NEWSLETTER

---

10 Market Square Hayle Cornwall TR27 4HE  
Telephone 01736 757900 Fax 01736 757010  
Email [admin@cinnamon.org.uk](mailto:admin@cinnamon.org.uk) [www.cinnamon.org.uk](http://www.cinnamon.org.uk)

Registered Charity No 1134680



**Christmas 2011**  
**Number 51**

**Dear Friends**



She came, she saw, she conquered! This is the face of a super star at Poldarves Sanctuary, much more about her later.

A summer of just about everything weather wise but the sun did shine and we made the most of it - dog walkers, fundraisers, sanctuaries all! The busiest year yet and I have so much to share with you.....



## **CT '100' Club**

Winners who have each received £25 are Apr: **Joan Russell** (West Midlands), May: **Sue Chamberlain** (Powys), June: **Diane Gardner** (Cambs), July: **Peggy McKay** (Sussex), Aug: **Christine Gledhill** (Yorkshire) and Sep: **Rosa Lewcock** (Devon).



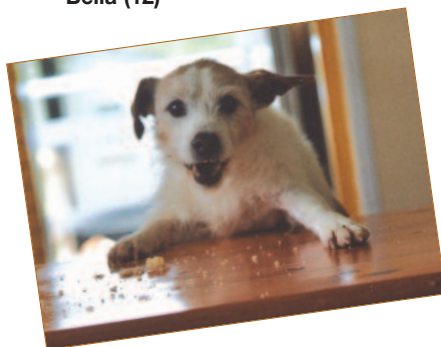
## Catalogue

You can probably do most of your Christmas shopping with us this year! Some ideal presents, a fantastic pudding, dreamy chocolates, noodles for dogs(!) - add a little grated cheese for a perfect snack! And of course our very special (now legendary) Christmas card entitled Cinnamon Christmas Teatime. Once again Linda Rush has done us proud despite enormous difficulties in her life - we're all thinking of you Linda.

Here are the stars:



**Bella (12)**



**Billy (15)**

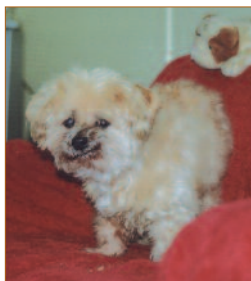




Breezer (9)



Cody (15)



Mopsy (15)



Dylan (14)



Daisy (14)



Leni Lenope (14)



Pete(12)



Stephanie (12)



Lily (11)



Katy (12)



## Charity Of The Year

We always feel very honoured when clubs and societies name us as their Charity of the Year and this year we have a huge added honour - the British Veterinary Nursing Association has chosen Cinnamon Trust as it's charity. We are combining this with a poster campaign to recruit more fosterers both long and short term - so great is the need for our help. We are distributing one of these four posters to every vet surgery via The Veterinary Times magazine so as well as vet nurses everywhere fundraising for us, the surgeries will hopefully be displaying a poster.

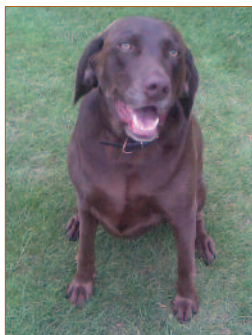


We can send posters to anyone who'd like to join in!

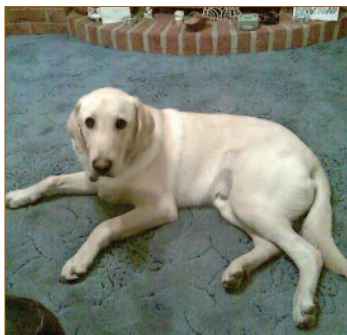


## Fundraising Events

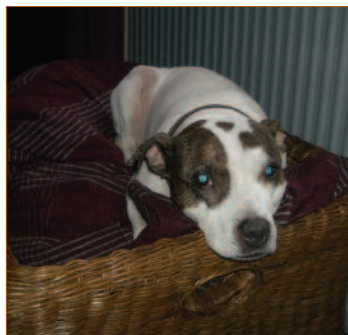
**Christine Lawn** and **The Lupset Park Group** have been truly wonderful again and raised £830 from lots of events. **Bob Main** and everyone at **Twenty Church Wardens Pub** (Peterborough) raised an amazing £502.25 from several events through the year. **Mrs R Dunbar** of **Planters Coffee Shop** (Kent) raised a wonderful £200 from a sale of books, CD's, jigsaw puzzles and much more. **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) with help from **Sue Lowe** held a bric-a-brac stall to raise £210 and then they held a coffee morning and raised £192, **Jeanette Murwald** was the chief beverage maker and washer up and **Carol Payne**, **Lynne Hopkins** and **Sue Lowe** all helped. **Sinead Gibb** and **The South West Area Team at Surrey County Council** raised £100 from table top sales and their book clubs throughout the year. **Julie Aris** held a super quiz night at **Westham Village Hall** (Sussex) and raised £272. **Amanda Williams** (Abergavenny) ran The Bath Half Marathon and raised £240 - very well done!



**Snoop**



**Buster**



**CD**

**Snoop**, **Buster** and **CD** helped **Janet Smith** raise another £115 by staying with her - good boys!

**Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £56 from her three craft fayres. **Ian Cameron** (Surrey) kindly donated two Jardiniere Stands which fetched a wonderful £120 at auction. **Lucy** and **Jennifer Garraway** (Cornwall) raised £12.15 from their craft sale. **Vicky Brennan** (Wiltshire) nominated us and her employer **Ebeni Ltd** sent £340 being a proportion of their profits for the year - brilliant, Vicky! Many congratulations to **Pamela** and **David Moakes** (Cornwall) who raised £180 in lieu of presents at their Golden Wedding Anniversary. **Marianne Wilding** (Chester) sold her oil painting 'The Wave' to raise £125 in memory of her wonderful cats **Kimmie** and **Filou**. **Lynne Stark** (Coventry) held a small coffee get-together and raised £32, **Jennifer Barton** (Cambs) raised £27 from her stall at **Downham Cats Protection**. **Angela Harris** with help from **Alfie**, her niece and family raised £75 from her stall at Bishopstone Fair.



**Angela Harris and Alfie**

**Constance King** (Kent) raised £56 from her local pub quiz, **Carl Drinkwater** (West Mids) raised £225 from the sale of drink cans, scrap metal and unwanted clothes collected by friends. **Louise Matlock** (London) raised £200 from the sale of her lovely homemade Christmas crackers. **Maureen Nicholas** (Isles of Scilly) held a sale of goods from a house clearance and raised a wonderful £151 in memory of her relation, **Miss D Blythe**. **Lillian Gowers** (Essex) raised £50 from her Reiki classes. **Elizabeth Pengelly** (Cornwall) held a coffee evening, with support from her cats she raised £68 and **Cleo** her cat won a book "The Ultimate Cat" - most appropriate! **Joanna Aplin** (Somerset) with help from **Sue**



Jo Jarnell's stand at Haywood...



...and at Blue House Vets

**McDonnell** and **Becky Hunt** held a cake and craft stall at the veterinary surgery where they work to raise a marvellous £178.66. **Jo Jarnell** (Staffs) **Anna Drinkwater**, **Brenda**, **Christine** and **Dereth Adams-Heighway** raised £86.80 from their information stall at **The Haywood PTFA Fun Dog Show** and **Jo** sent £250 being a share of the profits - superb! And then **Jo**, **Lola** and **Dereth** raised £79.15 from the '**Blue House Vets**' open day.



Greta Perry

**Mike Hasshill** (Cornwall) has been busy again, he raised £50 from the sale of his farmyard manure to local gardeners. The Year 8 students from **Minehead Middle School** raised £15.70 from two charity days they organised and ran - that is so special. **Greta Perry** (Merseyside) braved the cold to complete a 7 mile star trek walk at night to raise £113.50 - fantastic Greta!



A winner at White House Vets

**Cocoa**, **Chester** and **Sushi Huntley**, the dogs and cat of **Venville House** (Devon) held a coffee morning and, with much tea drinking(!) and biscuits going astray to a good home, a magnificent £50 was raised! **White House Vets** (Worcs) held a Doggy Fun Day and raised a staggering £1,400.

**Pauline Thompson** (Leics) raised £40 from her car boot, **Sue Gillett** (Cheshire) raised £50 from her stall and **Christine Derham** (Suffolk) raised £41.60 from the sale of more lovely peacock feathers. **Chris Dawson** (Norfolk) raised £100 from the sale of her ever popular little knitted mice and **Julia Jones** (Berks) raised £13.86 from the Cranbourne Dog Show. **Rachel Wroe** (Hampshire) is such a star, she completed a 10K Run in 1 hour 36 seconds, her



best time so far and raised a wonderful £418.10. **Catherine and Allana Pattinson** (Cumbria) raised £50 from various events and **Pauline Hawkins** (Somerset) held a Garden Open Day and raised £182 - excellent. **Hazel Stanbury** (Glocs) raised £100 from the sale of merchandise. **Veronica Bennett** (Sussex) sent us a cheque for £100 - this was raised by her amazing 12 year old niece



**Abbey Veterinary Group at Chaddesden Park**

**Lauren Taylor**, and her friend **Jan Trimlett** - Jan donated some very expensive items and Lauren, bless her, sold some of her precious soft toy menagerie - isn't that lovely? **Maureen, Mike and Lyndsey Narraway** (Cornwall) held a super scrummy cream tea and raffle in their garden to raise £130. **Irene Jones** (Cornwall) raised £55 from the sale of cards and paperbacks. **The United Benefice of Tolleshunt Knights with Tiptree and Great Braxted** held a Pet Service at **All Saints' Church** and raised a very special £65. **Abbey Veterinary Group** (Derby) raised a stunning £796.65 at The Big 1 event at Chaddesden Park.

**Carol Payne and Lynn Hopkins** (Norwich) raised £30 from their stall at Wolterton Hall Organic Day. **Sheila Hamilton Andrews** (Berks) raised a fantastic £1,200 from The Cranbourne Companion Dog Show. **Julia Jones, Carol Webster and Anne Barrie**, volunteers all, had a stand at the event. The Mayor of Seaford, **Linda Wallraven** opened **Geoff Stonebank's** (E Sussex) garden. He had over 50 visitors and raised £235.96 from yummy homemade tea and cakes and plant sales. **Angela Harris** ran a stall with jumble.



**Opening Geoff's garden event**

**Janet Morgan** (Worcs) raised the magnificent total of £609.82 from events at Whitehouse Vets, Bromsgrove Carnival, Carers Week, The Royal British Legion Poppy Picnic Party, Townsend Vets and Hereford and Worcester Animal Rescue Dog Show and she was variously helped by **Wendy Ralphs** and her granddaughter **Verity** (9), **Anita Moore, Eileen Sutton** and daughter **Helena, Jane Simmons, Sheila Clifford, Chris Hyde** and husband **Kevin, Pam**

**Jameson, Aniko Ingham, Eileen Sutton and Jenny Bull.** Fantastic, very well done everybody!



**Janet Morgan and friends at Whitehouse Vets**



**Baby hedgehog at Townsend Vets open day**



**Jane, Anita, Janet and Delta at Bromsgrove Carnival**



**Winners at New Malden Vets dog show**



**New Malden Vets** (Surrey) raised £86 from their raffle at their dog show.

**Carol Matheson** (Leics) sold her lovely lace bobbins to raise £200, **Louise Wilkes** (Peterborough) sold delicious homemade jams at work to raise £12 and **Stacey Chamberlain** (Leics) raised £25.40 from her stand at a local fun dog show. **Bernice Miller** (Norfolk) raised £90 from the **Reepham High School** event.

**Dave Elliott** (Cornwall) was captain of **Treloy Golf Club** in 2010. Every time a golfer found themselves in the Captain's bunker it cost them 20p, they renamed it the Doggie Bunker and raised a wonderful £100! **Ian Wright** (Herts) ran The Edinburgh Marathon for us and raised a quite brilliant £433.50 - well done Ian! **Mrs J Kinneav** (Cambs) held a coffee morning and raised £41. **Denise Fletcher** (Dorset) with help from friend **Joy Coots** and her



**Denise Fletcher and Darcy**



adorable 17 week old puppy **Darcy** held a stall and raised £13.50. Darcy was good as gold for hours!

**Belinda Newman** (Surrey) raised £150 from her stall at Bookham Village Day despite being very wet and windswept. Belinda is a great volunteer who walks **Angus** for **Wendy McNay** every day and his best friend is Belinda's Westie called .... **Angus!** "Guests of Honour" on the day!

**The Marchioness of Lansdowne** (Wilts) sent £250 raised at The Bowood Show 2011, with many thanks also to the Committee, Bowood Estates and all the volunteers. **Margaret Cooper** (Devon) with help from **Michele, Brian** and **David** raised a brilliant £660 from Postbridge dog show and raffle.

**Dora Delf** (Cornwall) raised £36 from her stall and **Gwen Rogers** (Derbyshire) raised £25 from her event at Markeaton Park. **Colleen Salter** (Devon) from Dogsboddy Grooming had a party to celebrate 25 years in business and raised £527.12, **Helen Reeves** helped - congratulations and fantastically well done, Colleen. **Diane** and **Peter Davis** (Surrey) welcomed more than 80 friends to "Anyone for Pimms". With help from **Marion, Chad, Sean, Rachel, Elaine, Dick, Lyn** and **Beatrice** they served hot dogs, Cornish cream teas, had a tombola, dog quiz and "where did teddy go on holiday" to raise a staggering £975.



Wendy McNay with Angus and Angus



Postbridge dog show



Enjoying the party with Diane and Peter Davies

**Anne Cowie** (Co Durham) had a great adventure - she says her stall at the summer fair should have been rescheduled as a swimming gala - but the local garden nursery came to her rescue and Anne had her stall in a leaky greenhouse instead, it was fun and she raised £50 - amazing. **Jeanne Thomas** (Pembrokeshire) with help from **Sue Biddiscombe** were one of only a few stalls at Sunday's Paws in the Park and despite almost being washed away they had a captive audience in the marquee and raised £50 - another diehard! **Zoe Gill** and everyone at **Swayne and Partners Vets** (Suffolk) raised a wonderful £320 from their Open Day. **East of England Ladies Kennel Society** raised £125 from the special class in aid of CT at their show. **Keston Agility Club** (Kent) raised £50, **Iver DTC** (Bucks) raised a brilliant £500 and **Woodbridge and District DTC** (Suffolk) raised £50. **The Snoopy Dog Club** (Herts) raised £200, **English Shetland Sheepdog Club - Chilterns Branch** sent £50 and **Cheltenham and District DTC** raised £300 for us. **Dogs In Need Agility Society** (Lincs) raised a stunning £1,000 from their annual Dog Agility Show. **Westward Ho! Greyhound Supporters Group** raised £50, **Flatcoated Retriever Society - Surrey Area** raised £100 from various functions over the year. **Fleet & District DTS** celebrated their 40th anniversary and raised £209.85 from their raffle and fundraising activities. Here's to the next 40 years! **Welsh Corgi Rescue Service** raised a staggering £1,500. **The German Shorthaired Pointer Club** raised £43.90 from entrants to The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Test at their show. **Denne Park DTC** (W Sussex) raised £100, **Totnes and District Canine Society** raised £20 from their charity class entries. **Itchen Valley DTS** raised £100 from various events including a BBQ and egg and spoon race. **Malmesbury & District Dog Club** sent £50.



## A Wedding!

**Lucy Churm** is a volunteer in Yorkshire - she walks **Natalie** for **Geoff Stubbs** three times a week.

Natalie is a hearing dog and since Geoff had a stroke he has been unable to give her her "playtime". They have all become very good friends, and Natalie is adored by Lucy ( and vice versa I think!). It was only natural then that Geoff and Natalie should don their Sunday best to accept their invitation to Lucy's wedding. Isn't that perfect? Congratulations Lucy and we all wish you every happiness.



## Volunteer View

One very clever Border Collie, two besotted volunteers!

**Anne Adoum** (Herts) writes ...

“Receiving a phone call from The Trust about an elderly man nearby who needed help walking his 15 year old Border Collie Maggie back in April, I was very excited. I became a volunteer a year ago just because I love animals and have always wanted a dog of my own, which is unfortunately not possible due to the family's busy schedule. After some research into volunteering opportunities I came across The Cinnamon Trust and being a prospective veterinary student, knew this would be the perfect job for me!



**Maggie with Anne Adoum**

Upon meeting with Maggie and her friendly owner for the first time, I was surprised at Maggie's energy and loud, guttural bark for a dog of her age. Mr. Dawson wisely informed me to attach Maggie's lead at the bottom of the staircase leading to the front door so as to avoid her tripping over it in haste! Her enthusiasm becomes even more apparent when the walk begins; Maggie bounding along gleefully with me following in suit. As soon as I remove her lead when we reach the field she jumps around playfully in anticipation of her ball or stick to play fetch with, which she performs like a true collie. Her age is only apparent when she loses track of the ball often and stops, looking at me in a confused way and cocking her head, waiting for me to point it out.

What I find most endearing about Maggie is her inquisitive nature. She gets sidetracked easily when walking by grass and weeds which she attempts to eat and worried me silly once when she ran off with the stick she was playing with down a hill, and unbeknown to me, into the stream at the bottom. After running after her and frantically calling her name I was relieved to be met with the view of Maggie paddling in the stream and having a refreshing drink! After calling Mr. Dawson to tell him, he laughed and responded 'she does that all the time. I used to throw sticks into the water for her to fetch'. This stream is our favourite part of the walk now; Maggie always jumps in, even when she's already soaked from the rain!



I cannot thank Tom enough for allowing me to become a part of Maggie's life; I look forward to our twice weekly walks and on the occasions when I have been unable to walk her I miss her terribly. My brothers and best friend have also walked Maggie with me on several occasions and everyone loves her to bits. I really enjoy knowing that I'm able to help Tom doing what I love best. From this experience I have learnt how important our help is and how to be more responsible and reliable. Tom and Maggie are lucky to have each other, just as I am lucky to have my pets and if the work of The Cinnamon Trust can help more best friends stay together, they are certainly improving lives. I will always be a proud volunteer for this amazing cause."

And **Lynn Foreman** says.....

"I first became aware of The Cinnamon Trust through Watford NAWT. I wanted a dog after recently having my beloved cat Sammy put to sleep. I have always wanted a dog but could not with Sammy. Unfortunately after a lot of consideration I came to the conclusion that it wouldn't be fair to a dog to be left at home for long periods so I looked into volunteering as a dog walker.

It didn't take long for them to take me up on my offer and I introduced myself to Tom and his 15 year old Border Collie Maggie. This is a new experience for us all and we are learning as we go. Maggie was quick to show me how smart she is and how little I know about dogs. I have tried all the tricks but Maggie just turns them around to make them work best for her! For instance she isn't keen on other dogs so I have tried various tactics of getting her attention before she sees the on coming dog. I have used making a fuss and giving her a good old neck rub or treats as a focus. This works initially and she ignores the dog but the next time we come to that particular spot she will stop and look up at me expecting the same petting or treat regardless of no dogs being around! When we get back to Tom I tell all about her escapade which usually gives us both a laugh, Maggie listens and watches us both, then she steps closer to me, looks me right in the eye, then her gaze goes to my pocket with treats in and then back to my eyes. Tom and I laugh at her cheek and she gets the treat off me! We all agree Maggie has me right where she wants! I am so grateful to Tom for trusting me with Maggie particularly after she tried to take me for a dip in the stream but that's another story!!"



**Dave Drew** is a busy volunteer in Gloucestershire:

"Since retiring I have my own dog, a setter that loves all doggy visitors and all people (maybe not all cats - everybody has faults, but setters have less than people!).

I started walking Amber at Xmas as her owner had had a knee operation and was struggling. We, the three of us walk in a 12 acre arboretum which is securely fenced and gated and Amber has developed from an 11 year old that couldn't walk to a normal pace, to now when she runs ahead of me (which I feel most is satisfying). We walk 3 or 4 days a week and have met up with a complete cross section of lovely people walking their own dogs. Susan, Amber's owner, a widow, misses her husband and appreciates a chat over a cup of coffee after our return and has even begun to sometimes come to the arboretum with us. A high proportion of the dogs I have fostered are for some reason Jack Russell's and they all have expected to sleep with me in the bed (they can't keep a secret!) but as they are only visitors I feel it's not my place to argue with a Jack Russell! I have the potential for being lonely but thanks to dogs there is no chance!!!



**Christine Ruffles** in East Sussex writes:

"When I retired from work, I knew I would need to get regular fresh air and exercise, but also knew I would never have the discipline to go out and about in all weathers, just for the sake of it. So I was delighted to find out about The Cinnamon Trust and have derived a great deal of pleasure from the lovely dogs I have met and come to love over the years. When my husband retired, he too became a volunteer.

Whatever the weather, rain, snow gales etc, we know we cannot let our four-legged friends down. Of them all, Benjy seems to revel in bad weather, as he loves water and mud. His owner, Denise, will sometimes say, hopefully but rather optimistically, that he has just had a bath, or she has friends coming for lunch, so could he perhaps be kept clean, but that is not Benji's idea of a good walk. If he can find a muddy puddle or a ditch to roll in, he is in heaven. Hot weather and dry spells are very boring to him! He is also a great sniffer and loves to stroll along, smelling every blade of grass and other doggy smells, so walks are not speedy. We can even come to a complete halt for some time because, whenever another dog comes into sight, Benjy has to lie down and await it's approach. He will not budge until the other dog is with him or has gone off in a totally different direction, and he is impossible to move against his will. So, not active, weight-losing walks for me, but nevertheless very enjoyable and Benjy is a lovely, friendly boy.



**Christine Ruffles and Benjy**

In marked contrast, we walk a dear little poodle, Lizzie, and she hates the rain, even when she's wearing her smart raincoat. She does not like mucky weather,

jumps over puddles and, if she encounters ground that is really too soft and muddy to cross, she will look up appealingly to be carried over it! Yet, contrarily, she loves rolling in cow pats, if she gets the opportunity, and arrives home smelling absolutely disgusting.

Thank you to The Cinnamon Trust for bringing me these and other affectionate friends."



**Ahmoon**, another mud lover has been keeping **Chris** and **Dave Shilvock** in Lancashire on their toes.....

"Ahmoon is a Cockerpoo and is nearly two years old. He belongs to Hugeat, a 93 year old lady. His interests are competitive ball games, sniffing other dogs where he shouldn't, being cuddled and seeking out mud baths.

We walk him two to three times a week along with our own dogs, usually in the local nature reserve which runs at the side of the Ship Canal in Flixton, Manchester. This lovely area was given to the local community by United Utilities in 2000. It is a great place, ideal for walkers, cyclists and of course dog people!



**Chris and Dave with Ahmoon**

One particular day a few weeks ago we took him for our usual walk only to find the nature reserve unexpectedly closed for the day. It was a dull day and we decided to walk over the nearby fields and along the side of the railway track, and area we are not familiar with. We walked further than we intended, big mistake! At the furthest point from the car (isn't it always the way?) the heavens opened and it poured with rain. On the way back Ahmoon found a hole, now filled not only with water but also with that horrible black fluid

which comes from rotting vegetation. When he came out it looked as if someone had painted the lower half of him black. Only the day before Hugeat had spent £20 on him at a canine beautician's! We couldn't get him clean, so we took him to Mum's to try the hosepipe. That didn't work either so we took him to our house for a shower, and half a bottle of dog shampoo later we were able to take him home. What a day! Ahmoon's a lovely dog - if only he would keep clean!"



**Jenny Whelan** is one of our brilliant young volunteers. She writes:

“My name is Jenny Whelan, I am 15 and I live in Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea.

I first found out about The Cinnamon Trust through a friend who also walked a dog in the area. The Trust put me in touch with Peggy Clarke and her gorgeous West Highland Terrier, Mitzi in the summer of 2006. Those five years have gone very quickly! I walk Mitzi every weekend come rain or shine! Mitzi loves chasing the squirrels in the woods but she also enjoys running along the beach trying to keep up with the seagulls and she loves nothing more than a paddle in the sea. Mitzi is ten years old now but she is still as lively as when I first met her! She seems to love everyone and she is always up for a cuddle and a fuss. Last summer we got a Miniature Schnauzer puppy called Alfie and he and Mitzi have become great walking buddies.



**Jenny Whelan and Mitzi**

Mitzi has even stayed for sleepovers with me when her owner, Peggy has been away visiting or in hospital. Despite her age Mitzi keeps up with Alfie who is a year now and she certainly keeps him in his place! She is one of the most polite and easy going guests we have had to stay in a long while!

Peggy says Mitzi seems to know when we are coming and she will wait by the gate if we are late. I know that Mitzi is fantastic company for Peggy and she even has her own sofa filled with cuddly toys.

Mitzi always seems pleased to see me and I'm always pleased to see her! Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust my parents and I have enjoyed many lovely walks with a super dog and become good friends with Peggy. Since walking Mitzi I have “recruited” one of my mum's friends to become a dog walker - she is now helping an owner in Pevensey, East Sussex.”



This is a terrific view from **Maggie Dolman** in Cardiff ..... and more dogs who like to wallow in the mud!

“Over a year ago at the age of 61 and after retiring, I was looking for some



**Maggie with Snoopy, Holly and Poppy**

charitable work, so went on line and came across The Cinnamon Trust.

It caught my attention, as I have always enjoyed the company of elderly friends and still recovering from having had to have our 18 month old golden cocker, Harvey put down, I thought this would be a great way of having the pleasure of other dogs, meeting their owners and combining well needed exercise.

I contacted The Cinnamon Trust by completing the application form, sent it off and waited for acceptance and haven't looked back since!

I was initially put in touch with Joan, who has Poppy and later Muriel who has Holly.

Poppy is a gorgeous black, bright eyed, bushy tailed, long haired dachshund cross spaniel and is almost 10, a rescue dog that Joan has had since Poppy was 18 month old.

As soon as the car pulls up, Poppy alerts the whole neighbourhood that she is off for her walk and on return lets her "Mum" know that she is back and has had a great time!

Holly however, is almost 6 years old and was sold to Muriel as a puppy. Apparently, she was purchased as a sheepdog but can now only be described as looking more like a German Shepherd!!!!?

She too is gorgeous and I might add that Holly's legs could be confused with 4 springs and if you met her you would certainly understand. As you enter the living room, Holly can be seen at the window bouncing up and down as soon as she hears my voice. A bit like Zebedee!!!!!!!

I walk both dogs, often with Snoopy my son's 10 year old black and white Cocker Spaniel, twice a week and absolutely love it, as Cardiff has so many beautiful places to walk.

Poppy has never been a problem to take out. In fact, she is so inquisitive that she spends the whole walk investigating every conceivable nook and cranny!

Holly however was a different “kettle of fish”. When I first took her out, Muriel advised me not to take her off the lead as she wasn't used to it.

OH LORD! Such a powerful dog to walk. A dog that really needed to RUN and RUN!

Once she got to know me and armed with pockets full of treats, I eventually plucked up the courage to let her go with the lead attached. She came back when called and that was the beginning of Holly's new found freedom!

Holly doesn't walk, she runs everywhere but I'm thrilled to say comes back every time she's called.

They both love ducks, squirrels and water and Holly? MUD, MUD, glorious MUD!

Oh how I love the winter!!

Through the “girls” I have had the pleasure of making two wonderful friends in Joan and Muriel.

I look forward to our coffee and long chat at Joan's one day and Muriel's the other. (I now refuse the cakes, as my waistline was beginning to expand, not what I expected with all this exercise!)

In a week from writing this letter, the three of us are planning a coffee morning together, so that Joan and Muriel can get to know each other too, I can imagine this being the beginning of yet another friendship.

Who'd have thought that we could ALL have gained so much from The Cinnamon Trust and you will be amazed how your time will be rewarded over and over again.”



**Debbie Smith** in Notts says:

“My grandparents always had dogs who all played a major part in my life. Jessie was their last dog a lovely little Jack Russell cross, completely spoiled and could do no wrong. As my grandparents grew older, it became increasingly difficult for them to walk Jessie, an issue that concerned them greatly. Having seen my grandparents upset and frustrated with the situation, I would walk Jessie whenever I could. The pleasure and relief that this one small deed had on them was quite profound.

When I heard about The Cinnamon Trust, their work really touched my heart, so I



decided to contact them and offer my services a couple of days a week. I was introduced to Mrs Newton and her beloved Scruffy in the spring and I immediately realised what an impact it would have on both of them if Scruffy received regular walks.

My own beautiful Labrador Claude was introduced to Scruffy on her first walk, she immediately told him off and put him in his place, a position he has never strayed from!



**Debbie and Scruffy**

Our walks are always eventful. Scruffy just cannot contain her excitement when I arrive to pick her up. As Joyce and I try to have a little chat, Scruffy runs backwards and forwards to the gate, excitedly barking in her desperation to begin her walk. As soon as we are on our way, Scruffy gallops down the road with Claude and I in tow, which is a very funny sight, due to Scruffy having a rather rotund body and little legs! Scruffy loves to sniff about, making the most unusual little grunting noises, almost like a little piggy snuffling out truffles!

Scruffy is quite vocal when she meets other dogs and cats and always manages to have the last word! She is also very strong willed and once she has had enough and wants to turn back, she sits down, takes root and refuses to move! Once we head back, the roles are reversed, as Claude and I encourage our little friend back up the hill to home, which must look like a mountain from just a few inches off the ground!

I would recommend anyone with a couple of hours a week to spare, volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust. Their work is invaluable, as is keeping pets and their owners together, as often it is the case that they only have each other for company..."



And for **Michael Mills** in West Midlands, there is never a dull moment...

"I have been walking dogs through Cinnamon Trust for more years than I can remember and presently walk two dogs regularly. Toby is a Yorkshire Terrier cross and Tanya a West Highland White Terrier. I must have been walking Toby for at

least 4 years and Tanya for about 6 months.

Eunice has her work cut out to hold Toby while I grab the lead when I call round; he can't wait to go walkies! I have to watch him when we're walking as he is so quick to find and grab anything on the pavement that is remotely edible!

When Robert mentions my name, Tanya rushes to the porch and sits looking down the road eagerly awaiting my arrival. Once while out walking, I had a scary moment with her. She suddenly developed a much pronounced limp. I immediately thought that she must have broken her leg.

I knelt down to have a look and discovered a half-sucked boiled sweet stuck to the bottom of her paw. I'm sure we were both greatly relieved when I pulled it off!

I love dogs although I have never owned one as I live alone and am out of the house a great deal. Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust, everyone's a winner; the dog owners, the volunteers and, of course, the dogs themselves!"



**Linda Stacey** and **Amanda Knowles** in Dorset write:

"We are a mother and daughter pair who have been dog walking volunteers since April this year. In this time, we have had the pleasure of getting to know two lovely dogs and their owners. Our first new friends were Jean and her black Labrador cross named Sam. Sam is a lovely big boy and very strong! But he has his own ideas on where he likes to go on his walks and if you happen to choose the wrong way he'll make his views known by sitting down and refusing to budge! And watch out if he spies a cat - the chase is on! Jean, Sam's owner is not very mobile now and really appreciates the visits from the volunteers from The Cinnamon Trust.



**Amanda and Sam**

A few weeks after we met Jean and Sam we had another call from The Trust asking if we could help with Della, a beautiful, if a bit scatty, Setter/Spaniel cross. She has lots of energy and even enjoys going for a little jog on her walks. She loves everyone, especially little children and other dogs, but her other great love is water. There is a stream and river on her walks so a paddle, followed by a roll in the grass is doggy heaven for



Linda and Della

Della! Helen and Dave, Della's owners are a lovely couple who can no longer walk as well as they used to and so are very grateful for the help.

Yes, we give up our time to walk these dogs, but it is a two way street. We both have great fun walking Sam and Della (not to mention the benefit of the exercise) and have the pleasure of getting to know their lovely owners. We feel we are the lucky ones!"



**Laura Street** in London gives a Guide Dog his "time out":

"I heard of The Cinnamon Trust years ago - I can't quite recall how I heard of The Trust, but I think it was on a television programme or a magazine article. I recall hearing about it and thinking to myself what a brilliant concept The Trust was - bringing together dog owners who can't walk their dogs for whatever reason with wannabe dog walkers.

I signed up and then received a call about Beryl, her guide dog Owen and her



Laura and Owen

son's retired guide dog Zim who was living with her temporarily. Initially the thought of walking two dogs alone daunted me slightly, but given that they were very obedient and that my boyfriend happily agreed to come with me as and when he could, I couldn't refuse.

Zim and Owen couldn't be more different in characters. My boyfriend and I really enjoyed walking the two of them, but earlier in this year, Zim required intensive dental treatment and he has been re- housed ever since.

Walking Owen has been a joy, and I look forward to our Sunday sessions

each week - he's so well trained and placid and a happy dog. But walking Owen has become more than just canine interaction - it has given me an opportunity to meet and get to know Beryl.

Being an Australian who has lived here for almost six years, I've not really got any family here in London, so it's nice to have a semi-regular conversation with someone closer to my grandparents' age. Although blind, Beryl is the most able-bodied person in their 80's that I have ever met - she does charity work of her own, crochets, bowls, goes to the theatre, has a brilliant memory, and is so witty it is hilarious. So, signing up to walk Owen has not only enabled me to interact with a dog, exercise and get out and about, but it's allowed me to meet Beryl - someone who I would never have met otherwise."



**Flash** and **Bobby** have had fun with **Racheal Phillips** in Rhyl:

"The Cinnamon Trust contacted me in September 2008, asking if I could help with walking Flash, a Staffie cross Boxer, on a temporary basis for Pat. At the time I was not assigned to a case and had plenty of time to walk Flash. The first time I met Flash he jumped straight up at me and licked my face! He is a big dog and of course I was quite shocked, but soon realized that he was friendly enough and he was just happy to see me! The temporary situation has turned into a more permanent assignment due to complications with Pat's operations. Although I am unable to walk Flash as often as I used to, I still walk him every Saturday afternoon. I love my walks with him and he is such an obedient chap and well behaved. Everyone we meet on our walks knows him and we always get stopped for a chat and asked how Pat is.

I was contacted in June 2010 to ask if could help with Bobby, a very plump toy poodle. His owner Doris had to have a leg removed, due to diabetes, 6 years ago and Bobby had not had a proper walk since then. Somebody put Doris in touch with The Cinnamon Trust and I've been walking him twice a week since then. At first Bobby struggled with the walks a bit, due to being quite plump and not used to going too far afield. He is very frightened of traffic and after a few unsuccessful attempts to walk him near his home, I decided he needed a change of scenery. I now put him in my car and drive him to a local park where he can enjoy his walks without being scared of the traffic. He loves it! He is so adorable we're always getting stopped by people, to stroke his fluffy little head. Every Saturday morning, I take Bobby out with my mother-in-laws 2 toy poodles. As you can imagine with 3 fluffy bundles it takes us ages to get around the park as everyone wants to stop and chat about them.

I work in the local High School and was asked if I would like to take part in a school



assembly to inform staff and students about the voluntary work I do. As nervous as I was, I said yes, as it seems that not many people have heard about The Cinnamon Trust. I was able to take Flash and Bobby along to the school to show to the students. There were about 900 students aged from 11 to 16 years and 40+ members of staff in the assembly hall. It was very scary to say the least. Flash and Bobby were little stars and were very well behaved. They happily walked up and down the assembly hall to the delight of the students and loved the fuss made of them. No-one in the assembly hall had ever heard of The Cinnamon Trust and everyone was interested to find out about the work we do. Several students approached me afterward expressing their interest in becoming volunteers. The response was fantastic and if at least one student is able to help an older member of our community, then I will feel that an achievement has been made.

I became a volunteer in May 2006 after seeing an advert in my local paper. I work full-time and feel it unfair to have a dog of my own that I am unable to spend much time with during the day. However, I felt I was 'missing out' by not going for walks, so becoming a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust seemed the ideal solution. Having walked 8 dogs over the past few years, I feel that not only do I get regular exercise and a good excuse to get out in the fresh air, but also that I am able to give something back to the community by helping the elderly and housebound owners of such wonderful companions.”



**Anne Sawyer** in Devon has a special view

“I feel that I am a very lucky person to be a volunteer with the wonderful Cinnamon Trust and to be involved in such a rewarding charity.

Since becoming a volunteer I have had the opportunity to love and look after Foxy. Foxy came to my home on 13th January with his little bed and blankets and with a bundle of love to give. He came as a short term foster due to his owner being in hospital. Unknown to Foxy, his owner was unable to go back to his own home after coming out of hospital. His owner is now in a care home - but this story comes with a happy ending!!!

Foxy is a five year old German Spitz with the most wonderful loving nature. Everyone that meets him cannot help but fall in love with him, Foxy will love you ten times more back! He has the most gorgeous orange and cream coat and the beautiful appealing look of a fox - hence his owner naming him Foxy!

Foxy settled in immediately and trusted very quickly, somehow he knew that he was somewhere safe and would be loved and looked after until he could be reunited with Alan. During the three weeks with me, Foxy enjoyed the company

of Lollie (my own little dog) and looked forward to going for walks and meeting all his new friends. He also had a soft spot for my daughter and loved to play with her. He instinctively knew when she would be home from school. He also knew when she left for school, as soon as the back pack was on, he was on his way to a lovely enjoyable walk!!

The Cinnamon Trust kept in touch with me during the whole time with updates on the wellbeing of Alan and as to when they could both be reunited. This came exactly three weeks to the day of looking after Foxy. I was able to take Foxy to the care home to see Alan. You can imagine the happiness of both the owner and Foxy when they were reunited. Alan and I were very emotional, though Foxy took it all in his stride and licked and cuddled Alan and then with the utmost loyalty sat by Alan's feet almost with the sense of "I am so happy to be back with my dad". It was a wonderful experience to be a part of. After a few hours, I returned back to my home with Foxy and after several phone calls, all involved agreed that Foxy could stay with his "dad" in the care home. Foxy was totally aware that he was going back to Alan and was more than happy to see his bed and blankets and newly acquired toys being packed up once again! When we returned to the home, Foxy settled very quickly, I left them both snuggled up together, the loyalty and love of them both together was very poignant to see. The love of a dog and owner is very hard to measure!!"



Here's a lovely view from **Trudy Crosby** in Derby

"Chadd is an 18 year old Yorkshire Terrier. He'd been with his owner for 9 years when she was taken ill and had to go into hospital. I had just registered to be a volunteer and was asked if I could foster him until his owner recovered and, in these circumstances, there was no way I could say no.

When I picked him up I was very concerned as he seemed very frail and my 2 young terriers can be very boisterous. I needn't have worried. Although blind in one eye, pretty deaf, stiff in his back legs and with no teeth, he knows who is in charge - him! My dogs immediately backed off as he made himself at home.

Two days after arriving he was insistent that he should come with us on our early



**Chadd in charge!**

morning walk and merrily hobbled along with us, enjoying the new smells and leaving his mark! He now tells me when he wants to come out with us or whether he'd rather just

stay on the quilt. I have to keep a close eye on him if he's off the lead as, even though he's lame, he can still move fast when he wants. He's very independent and recently disappeared in a carrot field!

He has no teeth but this does not stop him eating. He loves his food and despite his poor hearing he can hear the dog food cupboard open wherever he is. He takes immense pleasure in 'acquiring' a chew or bone from my dogs (they sit watching in amazement) and will happily gnaw (gum?) away on it.

Having no teeth has been a bonus to me as if he'd had them my hands would now be shredded. He needed a bit of pampering when he arrived but he strongly objects to people taking liberties with him, our Vet was also on the receiving end of his gums!

He has settled into our daily routine now - or we have settled into his. My little bitch wakes him in the morning with a lick and they all head out into the garden together where he normally exercises his vocal chords before breakfast. If I've been out then all three are waiting with wagging tails when I get back and then in the evening we all curl up on the sofa together - he loves that.

Hopefully he will be reunited with his owner, it's so difficult being separated from a pet, but if this isn't possible he'll stay with us as he's part of the family now."



Cinnamon Trust working at its best.....

**Jan Morrison** in the Wirral is very frail with cancer and being nursed at home. **Margeret Baldwin** will foster **Perdie** for life when the time comes, but before that, **Perdie** sees her everyday..... Margaret writes:-

November 18th 2010 was a very dark day for my husband and I, it was the day we lost our beloved Westie 'Rosie'. The heartbreak and despair we felt was unbearable, I thought we would never come through it. Friends urged us to get another dog but I just could not face it, but the emptiness in our lives did not diminish. It was in the New Year when Liz a good friend of ours called and said there is someone I would like you to meet come and have a coffee, when we arrived we were bounced on by this bundle of fun and fur, a Golden Retriever puppy. Talking to his 'owner' she told me he was hopefully going to be trained as a guide dog for the blind, what happens is she keeps him for twelve months until the puppy stage is over then hands him over for training, and then she takes on another puppy. I looked puzzled at Liz, 'I thought this maybe a way forward for you' she said, 'puppy rearing for the Guide Dogs'. 'Liz' I said 'there is no way I could have a dog for twelve months then hand it over, regardless of the lifeline it

might be to somebody I just could not do it'. Just before we left Liz said 'have you heard of The Cinnamon Trust'? 'No what's that?' 'I am a volunteer for them, I dog walk' said Liz, she gave me some literature about The Trust to read but told me to go on the internet and look at their website. Looking at the website I was truly amazed by what The Trust did purely by fundraising activities and donations, volunteers play a big role in The Trust's organisation whether it be dog walking, fostering, fundraising or



**Margeret and Perdie**

organising events, but the truly amazing thing for me was, if animals came into The Trust's care they were not put in cages, but into houses with comfy chairs, settees and beds and plenty of loving care, I knew then I wanted to be part of this wonderful organisation. I filled the forms in on line asking to be considered for dog walking and fostering ( dog walking because I missed my daily walks with Rosie). I was delighted to be accepted as volunteer and eagerly awaited my first consignment. Many thoughts go through your mind while you are waiting for that first call, guilt is maybe the first, because that call may mean that someone might be poorly or in hospital, then you start thinking will the owner like me, will the dog like me, but I need not have worried, for when my call came I met a wonderful brave lady by the name of Jan and her beautiful Jack Russell 'Perdie', we three got on right from the word go. Unfortunately Jan is no longer able to walk Perdie, hence her call to The Cinnamon Trust and hence me standing on her doorstep. Perdie and I go walking every day and the enjoyment and benefit we both derive from it is immeasurable, and I am sure Jan is pleased her beloved Perdie is getting out each day. Over the past few weeks Jan's health has given rise for concern and she requires more care and attention which she is receiving from her loving family who are taking care of her in her own home, Perdie is now spending most of the day after our walk with my husband and I in our own home, but each night at 6 o'clock I take her home to Jan where she spends the night, this seems to be working out well at the moment. Both my husband and I are so grateful to our friend for introducing us to The Cinnamon Trust without you we would never have met Perdie who has become so much part of our lives and her lovely mistress Jan."

Our Volunteers and those they help often become great friends, perfectly illustrated here. **Peggy Goodchild** in Kent writes:-





Missie

“I think my guardian angel must have been looking over my shoulder when you said Pat would take Missie out for walks. Nothing is too much trouble for her and when Pat rings my answerphone Missie is at the door and actually runs to greet her (she was very overweight when she came to me as a companion and has slimmed down a lot!). Pat has three dogs of her own and sometimes they go on walks in the local woods to meet her other doggy friends. Not only does Missie enjoy Pat's visits but Pat has become a true friend taking me to hospital appointments and opening jars

etc, and I feel comforted that if I have to stay in hospital Missie will be well looked after and spoilt with lots of love and tummy rubs by our good friend Pat”

and **Pat Bittle** says:-

“I became a full time carer for my husband in October 2010 but knew that in order to care for him properly, I also needed to do something for myself. I wanted to do something that would help others or something with animals - when I came across The Cinnamon Trust on line this ticked both boxes for me. I was soon put in touch with Peggy and her Scottie dog Missie. The first time I saw Missie she came waddling up the corridor to meet me - barely able to break into a trot as she was so overweight. Two walks a week in the local woods and she is now not only able to run and greet me but there is now a glimmer of a waist appearing! She is a lovely character and is quite happy off her lead and her recall is good (unless there is something more interesting than me, then she takes her own time to come back). She loves a good roll in the long grass (thankfully, so far, that is all she has rolled in) and unlike my own dogs if there is a puddle she has to walk through it - the muddier the better. Missie is not keen on the really hot weather and every so often will have a sit in the shade but once we are in the woods and under the trees she picks up her pace a bit. She seems a bit protective of my youngest dog (he's 20 months old and nearly ten times her height) and once told off a Boxer dog for playing too rough with him by getting in the middle and growling at it. She knows I am a soft touch as when I get back to Peggy's after our walk it is tea and biscuit time and she sits next to me and grumbles till she gets a (dog) biscuit.

Peggy is a lovely lady and it is a privilege to know her. We have been to the theatre together, to the Over 50's show at Olympia and Peggy came round to mine to watch the Royal Wedding with us. Peggy has inspired me to tackle what is supposed to be my back garden but at the moment is actually knee high in weeds. She is very knowledgeable about plants and her balcony is very colourful and she has converted me into growing my own tomatoes - they taste so much better than anything you could ever buy in the shops! We have a lot in common - Peggy used to belong to the WI so I am able to ask her questions about baking and jam making. All in all I feel very lucky to have been introduced to both Peggy and Missie - thank you to The Cinnamon Trust."



Healing Dogs! Here are two very moving views, the first from **Jane Maynard** in Conwy:-

"I have been walking George for over 2 years now, and what a pal he turned out to be.

George is a little fat old man with a face like Basil Brush, he's a super Jack Russell. Though he's getting rather slow, he still has an eye for the ladies and breaks into a gallop whenever a bitch comes into vision. He has the most wonderful temperament and he certainly won my heart.

Last August we tragically lost our only son aged 39, as you can imagine we found it very hard coming to terms with it. It was such a shock we felt our world had come to an end.

I found it very difficult to face and talk to people.

This is when George came to the rescue, I knew he would be missing our walks and though it took a great effort I made myself go and take him out.

He was so pleased to see me, when I eventually arrived on his doorstep, he didn't ask any questions wasn't the least bit embarrassed, just looked at me and said were's my lead it's time for walkies.

It was the best thing I could have done, walking with a dog is so cathartic, so thanks George for all your help. Also thanks to his owner Roy who has very poor health, but has allowed me to share our lovely George."





Jip

And from **Cathy Kennedy** in Northants who has Jip on lifelong foster:-

"I just thought you would like to know that Jip the Jack Russell in my care is in fine form. She is a real tonic to me since my husband died a year and half ago. Whenever possible she comes with me whatever I am doing and takes most things in her stride apart from next doors cat whom

she likes to see off from her garden whenever possible. She's been sailing and camping and is a regular social visitor. She has just had a weekend with two Irish Wolf Hounds in Suffolk.

Not only does she make a difference to my life but she has become part of a friend's family helping their son to become dog friendly rather than phobic. She also spends one day a week with a breast cancer survivor while I am at work. I am sure this is a 3 way win. I know that Jip is having a day of pampering, grooming and general dog attention. Jip skips into my friend's house without a look behind her so I know that she is happy and my friend, who is not well enough to have a dog full time, has a day of looking after a pet. We are both sure that this is highly beneficial and therapeutic to my friend's health and wellbeing so a win, win, win situation."



All our registered volunteers are truly wonderful, nothing is too much trouble. They give that which is most precious - time - and mix it with love, compassion, care and humour. My thanks are immeasurable for this is what makes Cinnamon Trust so different, so special.



Volunteers who have received Gold Awards for exceptional service are:-

**Isobel Watson** (London), **Faith Amos** (Hampshire), **Wendi Wright** (Yorkshire), **Marion Dickinson** (Northumberland), **Doreen Daggett** (Yorkshire), **Julie Kilbey** (Kent), **Charlie Bailey** (County Armagh), **Jane Wilkie** (Cheshire), **Hilary Bamberger** (Berkshire), **Sue Gosling** (Berkshire), **Gillian Moorshead** (Cornwall),

**Linda Jones** (Glamorgan), **Chris Jones** (Sussex) and **Samantha Meloy** (Cornwall).



We have 947 pets in lifelong foster homes. We keep in touch with them all and pay the vets bills. Time to catch up with a few!:-

**Charlie, Mr Tiggs** and **Mizzy** are enjoying life in Tavistock with Julian Bennett who writes:-

“In August 2010 I lost Emma, who was my long term foster with The Trust. In January 2011 I felt I was ready for the arrival of a new doggie so I gave Moira a call to say I was looking for a new foster. I received a call from Moira in June telling me that there was a complete family waiting for me - 2 little dogs and a cat. After thinking about it over the weekend I decided I would take the whole family despite not having had a cat since 1976. My new family arrived on Wednesday 15th June.

So Charlie, Mizzy and Mr Tiggs arrived. It was a little bit of a shock that Mizzy looked very much like dear old Emma!! I went and sat in my sun room and within half an hour I had 2 dogs and a cat all sitting with me on the sofa as if they had always been with me!!



**Charlie, Mr Tiggs and Mizzy**

It turns out that they had been city dogs and cat, living in a 5th floor flat in central London, in Tottenham Court Road, with their elderly owner Annie. Their notes gave contact details for Margaret, who had been walking the dogs for Annie (as a Cinnamon Trust Volunteer) in Regents Park. Mr Tiggs had never been outside before and was a real house cat. However he has now taken to going out and is a country cat and enjoying the big wide world, finally, at the age of 10. Charlie and Mizzy are now country dogs enjoying long walks on Dartmoor, and walks on the beaches of South Devon.

Everything they have done has been as if they have been with me for years. For example, going off with Greta, the dog groomer, as if they had always been going with her for years or going to meet my Mum (and her little dog Lulu) and going into



our favourite shop in town (Alan Dolan's) and getting biscuits from Chris and the other staff.

I have since found out that Annie's ashes were scattered on Plymouth Hoe, about 15 miles from where I live, so it was right that her family should come down to Devon to live, where they are proving a complete delight."



**Marcus** is with **Sharon Douthwaite** in Essex:-

"We recently became long term fosterers for a beautiful Golden Retriever boy called Marcus. We were very excited about this, as we do love our friends Golden Retrievers, but never imagined we would ever have one.

I have a son with special needs and he was so excited as he has always wanted a Golden Retriever too.

The first question my son asked me was if Marcus could sleep in his room.

My son has real problems sleeping in his room at night by himself.

Usually after I tuck him in for the night, we have to leave his bedroom door wide open and the hall light on.

Even so he will awake after a couple of hours and come and find one of us and we have to stay with him, normally most of the night, as he is very scared and cannot go back to sleep by himself. This happens practically every night since he was very young and he is now 14 years old.

Well, that was before Marcus arrived.

For the past week Marcus has slept in my sons bedroom, and my son just goes up to bed by himself with Marcus, stays in his bed all night with his door closed. WOW!!! I think we are all still in shock!!

Over the years we have tried doing this with our two small dogs, a rabbit and a canary but to no avail. When I asked my son why it was different with Marcus he replied "he makes me feel very safe and protected".

How amazing what a big dog like Marcus can do in a few days. He has had a very big impact on our family life.

My husband and I are getting our evenings back together now, after many years.

I am very grateful to Cinnamon Trust for allowing us to foster Marcus. We hope to have many happy years ahead of us with our new family member.”



**Zak** is in Kent with **Kathleen Wratten**:-

“When we went to pick Zak up we were a little unsure because his description - Rottweiler crossed with a Staffordshire Bull Terrier - made him sound a bit ferocious. However, although he has a face only a mother could love, he was a little smaller than we expected and with a lovely temperament.

We put him in the back of the car and as soon as we started moving he lay down and went to sleep, only waking up when we stopped for a comfort break. That's a first with all the dogs we've picked up over the years!

He has settled in really well with a bed in the sitting room and another in the kitchen where he sleeps at night. Again he goes to bed without fuss when its time and he's the tidiest drinker we've ever looked after.



**Zak**

Although he's ten years old he has boundless energy and will play with a ball all day if we let him. I've enclosed a photo of him “flying” across the lawn.

He didn't enjoy the bath we gave him although he stood still stoically putting up with it until we'd finished!

My husband was in ITU for many weeks last year after major surgery and is still recovering his strength. Zak has proved a godsend because my husband has to make the effort to take him out, if only into the garden, and this has made him far more active than he would have been otherwise. So it's a win win situation all round.”



**Guiver** is learning new tricks (age 14!) with **Sian Perry** in Somerset:-

“We have had Guiver since August. She came in as a temporary foster.



Unfortunately after a few weeks her owner passed away, so we decided to keep her on despite being 13, now 14 years old. She is a Labrador cross, possibly Staffie.

She gets on great with my other two dogs, Bracken a 3 year old Springer Spaniel and Thistle an 18 week old Springer Spaniel. She also gets on well with dogs I look

after and walk including an Inuit, a Jack Russell and a Border Collie.

At home she is very laid back and is happy to sleep in the most comfy spot, which usually means pushing humans and dogs out of the way or just sitting on them!

Guiver doesn't act her age at all when we go out on walks, she runs around with the other dogs and even encourages them to play sometimes. She also loves having a paddle when we go to the river, and chases Bracken when he gets out.

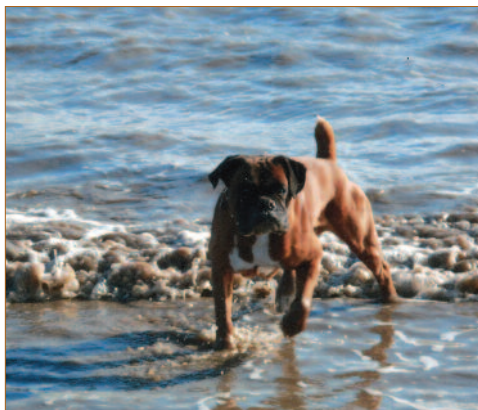
We take all the dogs to fun dog shows, it is great for them as they get to meet other dogs and get loads of attention from the people there. We have entered Guiver in these and so many people think she is great. She has won lots of rosettes including a few firsts for Best Veteran and Best Cross Breed. She has also got prizes for Prettiest Bitch, Best Rescue, Judge Would Like To Take Home and Irish Brace (most unusual pair) with Thistle. Guiver has also had a go at agility and loves it, though it did take her a while to get used to going through the tunnel as she couldn't work out why the treat was so far away!

In February we decided to have a go at the Kennel Club Good Citizen Tests as she has always been very well behaved and we taught her some more since having her with us. Despite her age she picked it up very quickly and passed both the Bronze and Silver awards with ease."



**Bruce** (10) is really living it up in the Vale of Glamorgan with **Patricia Lee**:-

"When I heard about the wonderful work that The Cinnamon Trust did in caring for pets who needed help, I decided to volunteer as a dog walker when I retired.



**Bruce Lee paddling...**



**...and at sea!**

I began walking two dogs on a regular basis: George an elderly Labrador who was a great character and enjoyed a short very slow walk two/three times a week and Bruce a handsome Boxer with a lovely nature. I walked Bruce virtually every day for at least an hour every morning and we both enjoyed it tremendously.

Unfortunately due to the snow over Christmas I was unable to travel to Bruce's home. After ringing Alan (his loving owner) on the 28th without success I called to see him only to discover that sadly he had died suddenly the day before. With all the arrangements that had to be made the family were very sad that they were unable to care for Bruce. They weren't aware that I had been walking him on behalf of The Trust and were very happy when I said I would take him home until other arrangements were made.

I contacted The Trust who agreed that he could stay with us until arrangements could be made for a permanent home for him.

Needless to say within 24 hours we asked The Trust if he could stay with us permanently as we had both fallen in love with him.

He has been with us for 3 months and has settled in very well although he still looks for Alan in every grey haired man we pass. He has such a wonderful gentle nature and everyone who visits wants to take him home. We wondered how we would cope with him travelling in the car until he solved the problem by jumping in the boot (hatchback) and refusing to get out until we took him for a ride.

He loves going on the boat and wearing his harness. Although we have only taken him around the Bay so far, we hope to go sailing soon.

He is a great character and loves his food, walks on the beach, chasing his ball and sleeping, although he has the loudest snore I have ever heard. He is great



with children and other dogs and behaves perfectly both on and off the lead although he does go deaf when he's playing with other dogs.

He loves to be groomed and stands like a statue while I clean his feet and brush and polish his coat.

He has one very unnerving habit. He never goes upstairs in the day time and happily sleeps on his bed in the lounge but if he wakes early he comes up very quietly and peeks around our bedroom door and if he thinks I am asleep he puts his chin on the bed and blows gently into my face all without making a sound and then walks away and goes back to sleep!

I recently took him to the Day Unit of our local hospital to tell the patients and staff about The Trust. He behaved perfectly and allowed everyone to pet him and stroke him and then lay down and slept while I told them about the wonderful work you do to help pet owners.

They all enjoyed it and asked if I could bring him back again sometime.

We have been so lucky in finding the perfect dog for us and we hope that Alan is happy knowing that his beloved Bruce has found a home and he will be cared for and loved as long as he needs.

We took him to the vet to be checked over and they gave him a clean bill of health but it caused some smiles when his turn came and they called for Bruce Lee.

We want to thank the staff at The Trust offices for all their help and advice in allowing us to become the long term foster carers to Bruce. We are looking forward to making his life as long, healthy and happy as possible."

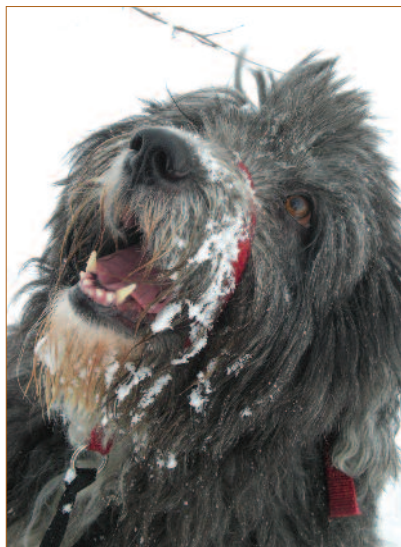


**Helen Vandenburghe** in Essex has worked wonders with **Sam**.

"In April 2009, I was contacted by The Cinnamon Trust to see if I would take on Sam - a five year old Old English/Labrador cross, as a short term foster. His owner was sadly in the last stages of a terminal illness, and was unable to continue caring for him.

In an email from the owner, Sam was described as "...a gentle giant, with a lovely nature, but who had no early socialisation, so barks furiously at other dogs, and can jump two or three feet in the air when meeting someone new, and can easily knock someone over!". He is a very large dog with a deep bark, so can be intimidating to people and dogs alike.

Up for a challenge, I thought I'd have my hands full - but little did I know! After a few weeks of comedy moments, where Sam would pull me (literally) off my feet, terrify the postman and cause mayhem at the park, I thought I'd better get some extra help. The CT kindly helped me with providing a session with a 'Jan Fennel' dog behaviorist, who started us on the road to teaching an Old Dog New Tricks! I later continued this work with Dan Rayner a local behaviourist, and the Essex Dog Training Centre, who slowly helped Sam become more comfortable around other dogs, and new situations.



Sam

Building both Sam and my confidence has taken a while but we make a great team now, with Sam becoming a much loved part of the family, and even local community.

In honour of his previous owners, Sam has visited patients at a hospice... (and managed to only knock over one cup of tea with this waggy tail!) and now enjoys a better social life than me with doggy play dates and group walks.

Two years on, Sam is here to say, and has brought so much joy to all who meet him.

I would like to thank all at CT and also 'The Sam Squad', my local team of friends, trainers, volunteers and dog sitters who have helped us out in so many ways, and of course to his original family (the Bloodworth's) who obviously provided so much love and care in his early years under very difficult circumstances."



The gorgeous **Penny** has worked some magic for **Elizabeth Singer** in Glamorgan.

"OK, I'll admit it. When we first listened to Moira's message on our answering machine asking if we'd be prepared to take on a dog called Penny as a long-term foster, it was a bit daunting. This was not because Moira's description - "very clean, good with cats, a good all-rounder" - was in any way off-putting, but simply because we'd not had a dog of our own for some years, and we weren't sure we were ready to take on such a big commitment again. Yes, we'd been helping to exercise dogs for Trust clients for several years now, and found it very rewarding, but caring for one '24/7' is a different proposition. So it was with a mixture of

excitement and apprehension that we eventually decided to take a chance on Penny.

She's been with us about four months now and, looking back, we wonder what on earth we were worried about. She's turned out to be an absolutely super little dog and has brought a great deal of pleasure into our lives. She's extremely affectionate and is, indeed, wonderful with cats. Within days she'd earned the trust of our 8-year old ginger tom Chester, and even tolerates him sleeping in her basket when the mood takes him! It's also been wonderful to see how she has gradually taken 'ownership', as it were, of our home and garden. Naturally, having been brought here to Cardiff all the way from Cornwall, and finding herself in a strange new environment, at first she was uncertain. For the first few days, she appeared reluctant to explore even our garden unaccompanied. Now she charges down there several times a day, seeing off imaginary intruders and ne'er-do-wells! In fact, she's a very good housedog - no one gets near our front door now without us being alerted to the fact! It's actually rather sweet that she already considers our home to be her home too, and therefore worthy of her full protection! Happily, when guests actually enter the house, she instantly switches on all of her considerable girly charm and her wagging tail goes into overdrive. I can honestly say I've never seen a dog who's so happy to be around people.

Of course fostering Penny means that, once again, we've had to get used to going out for 'walkies' 2 or 3 times a day - and often when the weather is less than inviting! But our more-than-ample compensation is seeing the excitement on her face and, indeed, her tail, when she sees one of us reaching for her lead. Not only that, both of us are doubtless a lot fitter and healthier ourselves as a result of all this fresh air we're getting! In short, opening up our home and our hearts to this



**Penny and Chester**

very special little dog has turned out to be one of the best decisions we've ever made. Finally, being able to take her for regular visits to re-unite her with her long-time owner Mrs. Moffat, who sadly can no longer give her the care she needs, has been a privilege."



Still in Glamorgan, **Bronwen** and **Stan Roberts** are enjoying life with **William**.

"We are both pensioners so when our last cat died we thought she had to be our last pet but over a year later we were still missing having her around.

One day a friend told us about The Cinnamon Trust and that they often needed foster homes for older cats whose owners for one reason or another weren't able to care for them any more and they also took care of veterinary bills. We lost no time in applying to them. We were delighted when we were accepted but also rather nervous as we waited wondering if we were doing the right thing. It was several months before the phone call came asking us to have William. His owner was in a Care Home suffering with dementia and he was in a short term foster home, but now his foster carer was having to move to a smaller house and her own two cats weren't too keen on William anyway.



**William**

William arrived on Good Friday having travelled all the way from Manchester to Penarth in South Wales. When he arrived we put his blanket under the stairs in our open plan living room and he sat and studied us for about an hour then decided it was safe to groom himself and he settled down to sleep for a bit. After that he came out to look for some food in the kitchen but I think I frightened him by following him and he dived back under the stairs. I decided to go to the shops and left my husband at home with William, I was only out 30mins but when I got back William was quite happily sitting on Stan's lap and purring loudly. Later on he came and sat on my lap and we haven't looked back.

William had been a house cat but after a month we tried letting him out and he loves sitting in the garden and exploring the small close where we live. He has made it quite clear to the neighbouring cats that he is to be respected.



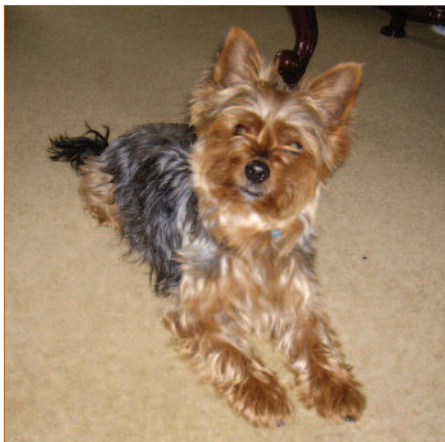
Since he came he has had to put up with quite a bit of disturbance in the house as we had our bathroom refitted and decorated and we have quite a lot of visitors. He was a bit wary of other people to start with but now welcomes everyone and is very relaxed whatever happens.

William is the easiest cat we have ever owned, he very quickly fitted in with our routine and has just the right balance of independence and affection. He has brought a lot of sunshine into our lives and made our house a home again. We are so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for bringing us together.”



**Dinky** thought he'd let us know himself how he's getting on with **Jennifer Mello** in Wiltshire.

“On Saturday 22nd August 2009 I was driven from Birmingham to Mere, Wiltshire by my previous mum's nieces. I am a beautiful Yorkshire Terrier. The girls checked out the house, garden, Mere and my new foster parent with serious consideration as had Cinnamon Trust



**Dinky**

Settling in took time as I found socializing with the local dogs rather difficult. I was aggressive, mostly due to fear I think, and I went to Naughty School (Dog Training) where I met many other dogs, rescue and otherwise - Afghans to miniature poodles and all sizes in between. I learnt to walk beside my new Mum, sort of, and respond to commands, also sort of!

Tummy troubles were a problem and once or twice I pooed and upchucked throughout the house. Really upset Mum as she was not sure what had caused it all but now I am on a regular diet and very well.

Still thinking I was a Rottweiler; Mum had long talks with the vet, vet nurse, long term dog owners and numerous other people. Cinnamon Trust also agreed that neutering was an answer. This was carried out on the 5th February 2010. Mum was more upset that I was.

A year later, I am a friendly, energetic 9 year old full of mischief. I bring biscuits onto the living room carpet, sly look at Mum as I know she prefers I do not. She seems to have given up bothering. I scratched the small lawn to death so the area

is now covered with pebbles. I have a bed upstairs (but sleep on Mum's), one in the kitchen and a pillow in the living room to stretch out in front of the fire or window when the sun streams in. It's great to have numerous toys, squeaky and otherwise to play with Mum. I still have my red octopus I arrived with.

I live for my walks at least twice a day for about an hour at a time, often in my rain coat or fleece lined one. Would go out more if I could. Lets face it, there are never enough smells!! Ok so I am spoilt rotten, even the Naughty School instructor called me a 'Mummy's boy'! I have regular visits to the vet and LeeAnne at the Dog Beauty Parlour for a trim, nail clipping, even the shampoo is followed by a dog hair conditioner.

I have become a companion, weight controller and playmate. I am Mum's Buddy and if taken away she would be devastated. Thank you Cinnamon Trust."



## **Making a difference**

I am actually unable to put into words how much this means to me - perhaps you can see why when you've read these views...

**Pamela Pickles** in Devon writes -

"My father fought a long battle with cancer and was my disabled mother's sole carer until the end of last year. My mother was rushed into hospital following a fall in November and remained there until the end of January this year. Sadly the stress of her own illness took its toll on my father and he passed away at the beginning of March. I contacted The Trust when father became too weak to walk his English Setter, Jemma in the last few days of his life. Without hesitation or delay you put us in contact with Sue, who has been walking Jemma ever since. It was such a consolation to my father to know that even though he could no longer care for my mother himself, after 64 years of marriage, she would not be parted from Jemma as well, thanks to the kindness and compassion of The Trust.

Thank you so much for helping to make a very difficult time more bearable, not only for the human family members, but for Jemma too."



**Mollie Coviello** in Dorset says:

"I have to write to say thank you for having made life so much more rewarding and less anxious during my two years here in Dorset.

Sasha, my rescue Golden retriever is now 14+ years old. A fortnight ago I woke at 4 o'clock in the morning to find her distressed, and her back legs were useless. I sat with her feeling upset and anxious, then rang my 'oh so kind' Trust dog walkers, Sally and Richard Banford, at 7.40am and they both came at once, and stayed until the vet arrived, I thought, to put Sasha to sleep. You can imagine my misery as I am 91 years old, moved here two years ago away from friends and relations, knowing no one except my son and his wife and his two step sons who, as things are today, live very busy lives and so I rarely see them! Sally and Richard have not only been kind dog walkers but wonderful kind friends as well - when the vet arrived he treated Sasha, gave me hope and encouragement and four days later she was up and walking just a little bit wobbly, but herself again. Sally came with me to the vet, three miles away, in my car, when I had to collect the medication, and they are going to have her to stay with Sam their dog, when I go on holiday next Monday for a fortnight. You can see, I can't thank them enough or you for being so caring."



**Denyse Martin** is also in Dorset:

"I am a 75 year old lady in the terminal phase of breast, spine, bone and lung cancer, spreading rapidly through my body. I lost my husband to lung cancer last year and live alone with my 3 fourteen year old cats. They are pedigree cats; one is a white Persian, Nina and her twin Naomi is a blue Persian. The third cat is a silver and white Chinchilla named Aisha and we had them as kittens. They have given us unconditional love and have been treated as children.

I was devastated when I was diagnosed with cancer 3 years ago and when my husband died; I was desperate to find an organisation that would take care of my pets after me. I was thinking of The Cats Protection League as a possibility but knew they would not get the care they were used to.

A lady from Weldmar Hospice Care Trust, who was a volunteer, and helping me with shopping asked me if I ever heard about The Cinnamon Trust and arranged for a brochure to be sent to me. I also asked them to send me a video cassette. When I played the cassette I was overwhelmed with emotion and very tearful. The accommodation offered to the pets is wonderful. The two sanctuaries have carpeted rooms with settees, armchairs with cushions and blankets. There are special units for little families, like mine to be kept together; pets are loved and well cared for. It is an animal lovers dream and it gives you peace of mind to know that someone will take over from you when you disappear and care for your beloved animals; it is such a relief.

Mrs Jarvis and her supporters and helpers deserve so much praise and

admiration. When I returned from hospital over 2 months ago I was unable to groom my pets, being so weak, so I and a cousin contacted The Trust to ask if they could find a person who would be able to groom them for me. They did find someone who is a lady dog groomer, but is willing to groom cats. This is a tremendous help and allows me to keep my cats with me in the home they love until I come to the end of my life.

My very kind neighbours feed them morning and night and attend to their litter tray as I am unable to do so. It is a daily struggle to survive from day to day but their love keeps me going.

I keep in touch with The Cinnamon Trust and tell all my relatives and friends and acquaintances about their wonderful organisation. Some of them are certainly thinking of handing over their pets to The Trust should anything happen to them and we are hoping to start a campaign to promote The Trust. I think they deserve all the help they can get for the good life they offer to bereaved pets and comfort to their owners.”



**Kathrin John** in Cambridge writes:

“I am writing on behalf of my father and mother, Harry and Rae to thank you for the fantastic support The Cinnamon Trust is providing for their dog, Wispa

My father is 90 and my mother is 86. They absolutely adore Wispa who is a black Labrador and nearly 10 years old. My parents enjoyed good health until the last couple of years but both have very limited mobility these days. My mum really misses her walks with Wispa around the river meadow near their home. Unfortunately, a combination of lack of exercise and being spoiled rotten has led to Wispa becoming overweight and it was Wispa's veterinary practice who provided contact details for The Cinnamon Trust.

Wispa now enjoys a walk on every week day thanks to the wonderful support from your volunteers. Mum and Dad are absolutely delighted to see the real difference it has made to Wispa and she is already losing weight, her eyes are brighter and her coat is regaining its shine.

We were becoming really worried about Wispa's future with Mum and Dad but thanks to The Cinnamon Trust, it now looks like they can all remain together.

Mum and Dad would have been bereft without Wispa. She is one of the family, is a loyal and constant companion to them and brings so much happiness into their lives. She, in turn, is absolutely devoted to them.



My parents are so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust that they have asked me to write to you and also would like to become members and to make a donation. As pensioners they do not have much disposable money but value the support they are receiving so much, they just want to give something back to the charity.

Would you also please pass on our sincere thanks to the kind volunteers who are making such a huge improvement in Wispa's life."



A wonderful letter from **Betty Spanswick** in Somerset:

"When I was born there was already a dog and cat in the family. I had my first 'own puppy' when I was 14. I am now 81 and in the years between I have had twelve dogs of all shapes and sizes, most of them 'rescued'.

Ten years ago I lost my husband and three elderly dogs within a period of twelve months. When I realised my remaining German Shepherd and Border Collie weren't likely to be with me much longer, I was encouraged by a 94 year old lady to take on yet another dog, even though I was 70 years old.

I told myself I must have one small dog, preferably wolf or fox-shaped with the right-sized legs, prick ears, normal-shaped nose and a longish coat. This specification arose from my previous experience as being the kind of dog I could most easily share my life with now I was alone. This 'blueprint' turned out to be a Sheltie. I couldn't find a mature Sheltie that needed re-homing so took on a puppy which, together with two large geriatric dogs, stretched my resources of energy to say the least.

My choice has been a huge success. From other people's point of view, Mishka is a 'pretty dog', well-behaved (as all my dogs have been) and acceptable to all. Consequently she has been into schools as a 'Blue Cross Education Dog', into hospitals and care homes as a PAT Dog and welcomed into every shop, café, pub, restaurant and a variety of other establishments where dogs are allowed. Thus I have, besides having her by my side, been trying to keep open the lines of acceptability of dogs in public places wherever I could for there are many people who tend to keep dogs at arms length and only feel safe with a small 'pretty' dog.

Sadly, at 10 years old, I am told Mishka probably has Cushing's disease and an enlarged heart. I am currently awaiting the result of further tests and the vet tells me that because I noticed the symptoms at an early stage, her life can probably be prolonged with treatment. However, I cannot bear the thought of not having a 'wrap-over' to see me through the grief.

As she has proved such a successful choice in my current circumstances, for the first time I need to have the same breed again but 'rescue' shelties are still difficult to find. While I have been investigating I have found just one available four-week old Sheltie bitch. Although I am a healthy and active 81-year old, I feel it is a dodgy step to take on another puppy which could easily outlive me, especially as, at the moment at any rate, neither my son nor my daughter's situation are suitable for them to have a dog.

And here is the point of my letter. I am able to take this bold step because I know I can register my new puppy (as I have my last three dogs) with The Cinnamon Trust. This has given me an enormous mental lift, a balm for my coming sorrow and a reason to live into my nineties. In fact, I have the excitement of a child again.

It seemed to me that this was perhaps an unusual slant on your wonderful support for the elderly and their beloved pets - to give an old lady the courage to take a gamble on the future and a new reason for living on.

Thank you for being there.”



This from **Pam Cronk** in Leicestershire will break your heart:

“I had been a widow for 7 years when I felt I wanted a little dog. I went to the RSPCA in Leicester and in a cage barking his head off was Griff. I fell in love with him when I took him for a walk with their help and I had him, a little gift from God.

But I have a very bad back and neck, the hospital said I could not walk him. I was very upset about that, as I had fallen in love with this little dog.

I have two Cinnamon Trust walkers now, Doreen who has two dogs, they all go out with Griff, and Stacy who walks him, so he goes out every day, and they have been a God send with Griff.



**Griff**

He walks behind me all day long and sleeps on the bed because he is small, he loves people, I am so glad I found him. Not lonely anymore because of Griff my little white dog.”

## Pet Friendly Care Homes



The third edition of PFCH - Star Rated! is proving even more popular than the previous editions. We still have copies available at £3.50.

This year's finalists for Pet Friendly Care Home of the Year 2011 are:

Applegarth - Berkshire  
Elizabeth Court - East Sussex  
Rotherbank - Hampshire  
Owls Barn - Lincolnshire  
The Old Vicarage - Dorset  
Neuadd Drymmau - Wales

We've a panel of three who will judge the six:-

**Pam Rhodes** who is a writer as well as TV Presenter (Songs of Praise among others!) and Pam has her own cattery.

**Beverley Cuddy** is editor of Dogs Today.

**Niamh Richardson** is a TV news producer as well as a Cinnamon Trust volunteer.

The award ceremony will be in London in October - very exciting!

There were so many well deserving 'homes' it was tremendously difficult to choose a final six. Well done to all of you on our register and thank you for your care and compassion, between us we will keep owners and pets together.



### Sydney Hall Court, Flintshire

Wales and West Housing were delighted that one of their complexes 'Sydney Hall Court' was chosen to be one of our top ten retirement schemes; Anne Hinchey, Chief Executive of WWHHA commented "I am delighted that Sydney Hall Court has been recognised by The Cinnamon Trust as being one of the top 10 pet friendly retirement complexes in the UK. We pride ourselves on being pet friendly at Wales and West Housing Association".

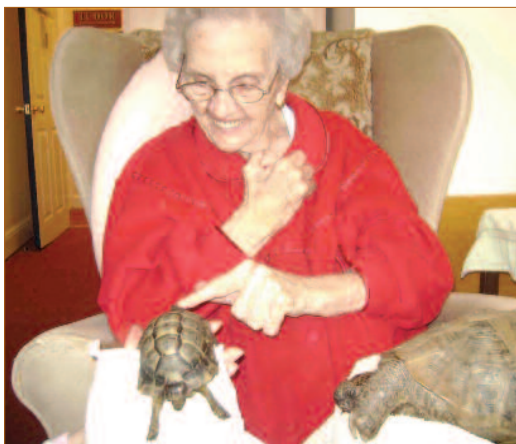
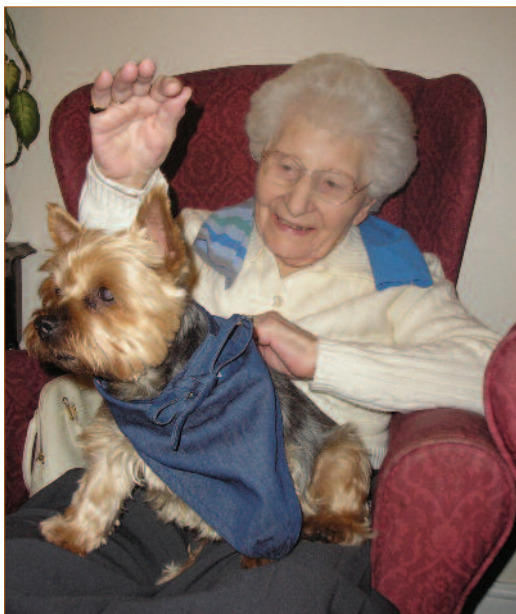
"We are all chuffed to bits to have gained this recognition by The Cinnamon Trust which does so much good work for older people and their pets. Having our pets around at Sydney Hall Court is lovely, great fun and very homely. I've got three dogs myself and I know how great it is to have them around and how attached we are to them. We all help each other out, as and when needed, and we wouldn't be without them for the world" said scheme manager Robert Holmes.



**Applegarth Care Home, Berkshire** Jenny Poole the manager writes:

Thank you so much for your letter and certificate for five star status, we are very proud and have placed the certificate in our front window along with the guide.

I have shared your letter with our residents and staff and we are all delighted with the comments made. Our pets bring so much pleasure and comfort to each resident in many different ways, having pets in the home is one of the best things I have done and I express my views with other managers at every opportunity. Amber the cat and Dan the little Terrier get along fine with each other, they are both of equal size and it is so lovely when they lay close to each other in the lounge with the residents, when the residents go into the garden they call out to the pets and they follow, I really do believe it strengthens our ethos that Applegarth is their home and residents should live in the home with freedom, choice and comfort just as they did when they were in the community, all our residents had pets at sometime in their lives and this is so important to them to live together in a house with all the comforts that home should bring and this includes their beloved





pets! Last summer we held a pets day where relatives, residents' grandchildren and the little great grandchildren were invited to bring along their pet, we had cats, small dogs, rabbits, tortoises and hamsters!! The residents were as excited as the children! Amber, Dan and Freckles our cockatiel were well behaved. We took lots of pictures and everyone took time to touch, stroke and look at different animals, it was such a lovely day.

Best wishes to you all at Cinnamon Trust.

Jenny, staff & residents (and the pet family!) at Applegarth.



### **Pentlow Nursing Home, East Sussex**

Residents were delighted with a recent visit from three birds of prey and their handler, Richard. Jagger was a fully grown Buzzard, Gandalf a beautiful cream and pale brown Barn Owl and Bama a small, but fully grown American Kestrel.

Richard had lots of information and interesting facts about each bird. We were surprised to learn they could see for 20 miles on a clear day and the owl could hear our hearts beating!



### **Kings Lodge, Surrey** Activities Coordinator, Jan van Rooyen says



We had a raffle to raise money to buy 'living eggs' and each resident named an egg. There was much excitement as they started to hatch and from the ten eggs nine hatched!

We were delighted and had a coop made for them. Out of the nine we kept six hens and they are doing very well, the residents feed them and watch them grow and are eagerly awaiting that first egg!

## One of the many heart warming letters we receive:

### Stangrove Lodge, Edenbridge, Kent

From Alison Cruise who was looking for a care home to accommodate her father and his much loved dog. Through our register Alison was able to choose Edenbridge Care Home.

Alison says “ Thank you for sending me the information about care homes. I was delighted to find one of the homes on your list that was able to accommodate Dad and his (much loved) dog. They came and assessed them both last Tuesday and they moved in on Thursday.



It has been a traumatic business watching Dad's decline, accepting that he needed 24hr care and would have to leave his home of more than 50yrs but it was so reassuring to my sister and me to know that he could take his dog with him. When he arrived at Stangrove Lodge in Edenbridge the dog was a real ice breaker. All the other residents and the carers love having her..... the home has a very nice philosophy of care and it looks like Dad will be happy there. Having his dog with him has helped him settle. We are extremely relieved.

So thank you so much for your help”.



### Our thanks go to **Richmondwood Care Home, Dorset**

This home has taken over all care of Bella (a cat belonging to resident Mrs Andrews), thus allowing her to enjoy Bella without the worry of looking after her. Bella is diabetic and the vet has taken her off diabetes pills and put her on daily insulin injections, administered by the staff and they also take Bella to the vet every week to have her blood sugar levels checked. The manager says it's very important to keep Bella and Mrs Andrews together and this is our best course of action. Well done Richmondwood!



### **SOS call to Cinnamon Trust to help get Max to the vets in double quick time .....**

Scheme manager of Belong House called for urgent help to transport Max a Jack

Russell to the vet. Within a short space of time volunteer Pat Meir was on her way to collect Mrs Lomas and Max and whisk them off to the vet. Max had hurt his leg and could not put any weight on it. After several x-rays it revealed he had broken a cruciate ligament in his hind leg, this required pain relief and a night at the vets. Max is now home and with lots of love and cuddles is making a good recovery. Mrs Lomas's daughter could not believe how promptly we were able to help; she had been working away that day and was not able to get there. And as for our volunteer Pat - well she is now working at Belong House!



## Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We've had a massive makeover inside and out! First, some new windows and doors, then we took down a wall to almost double the size of the doggy kitchen - it looks fabulous and has passed muster with flying colours by all the VIP's - lots of room for everyone to supervise and encourage the dishing up of that chicken casserole dinner, scrambled egg breakfast, tuna and pasta lunch or one of the very many other menus on offer! The garden, too, is looking lovely, lots of replanting - the last two winters having taken their toll - and reshaping and redefining paths.

The wild birds have flourished, feeders and feed of every description having to be replenished through the day to satisfy so many hungry little beaks - the yellow hammers have come back to join all the finches, tits, blackbirds, robins, doves, woodpeckers, thrush and Mr Pheasant introduced Mrs Pheasant who then brought three babies. Magic! And they all happily carry on while we have cake and pool parties on the lawn!

Time has taken its inevitable toll - we've lost too many, it seems. **Ferbie** (19) beautiful, talkative torti cat, **Dabs** (13) another gorgeous torti, **Psycho** (14) affectionate, proud oriental, **Sam** (15) who loved to sunbathe, **Jenni** (16) tiny, cuddly, darling girl and just as tiny **Holly** (16), **Tamsy** was only 10 - she had her favourite tea, went out to the garden, laid under her favourite tree and fell asleep - as gently and unexpectedly as that - such a shock for us. We've also lost little **Birley** (12) miniature dachs, **Goldie** (14) miniature poodle with the most gorgeous eyes and a guaranteed cuddle, **Debbie** (19) amazing little three legged yorkie.

Deeply loved, bless you all and thank you for enriching our lives - we celebrate the little people you were.

And then more little people arrive with their very own, very unique little ways! What a pleasure to welcome **Amy** (17) and **Teddy** (12). Amy 'cover girl' is a toy poodle and Teddy a Lhasa Apso/Yorkie mix, their mum, admitted to a hospice with very little time left, knew they were happily settled and instantly loved. How can



Amy and Teddy



Teddy looking cute

anything so tiny and frail command instant respect from every other canine resident, bewitch every human on sight, eat seconds and thirds at every meal time, be strong and spunky enough to chase a rabbit (if our greatest hunter and Christmas card star Mopsy doesn't see it first). She will let you know exactly what she wants and when and she is meticulous in her habits. This is a superstar! Teddy on the other hand is a happy-go-lucky kind of boy who just came and thought he'd always been here. He's very loyal to Amy and at regular intervals, timed to the minute (as you might expect) he checks to see she's ok - a touch of noses, that's all he needs. Teddy appointed himself one of the chief early morning chicken run monitors and then added supervisor of wild bird feeding to his chores. He, too, is rather partial to Poldarves menus!

**Bella** aged 12 is stunning, she's a lurcher/lab mix with a perfect jolly hockey sticks kind of attitude! She'll have a go at anything except fetch a ball - if you throw one, she just looks at you - "you threw it, you fetch it". She does however love to squeak any soft toy to within an inch of it's life and generally always greets you with one. Bella loves life, food, walks, her new friends - she thought she might chase cats till Peach changed her mind for her - now she doesn't even see them!



Bella

And we've welcomed **Lulu** (13) Collie cross who is always smiling. Our **Max** (15) Labrador is completely smitten and





**Lulu**

as she arrived, he fell in love and immediately invited her for a tour of the grounds, she was delighted to accept! A real tears in the eye moment. They go off together on regular strolls, a spring in the step, a twinkle in the eye. She's a lovely, easy-going girl and probably thanks to Max she settled very quickly and can she tuck in to her grub! VERY partial to treats - sausages, cakes, biscuits and favourite lunch? Pasties!

**Castor and Pollux** (both 14) were in the hospice with their Dad until his time was very near; they came to us in time to let him know his beloved friends were safe, well and settled. They are gorgeous, very tall cats, so gentle, calm and loving - a tribute to the love they received from Dad. Twin brothers, they are both talkative, inquisitive and a fantastic cuddle! And both will turn cartwheels for warm, freshly cooked mackerel. Second favourite fresh chicken! Castor even ventures out into the paddock - Pollux has yet to follow his brother, preferring the gardens .....



**Castor**



**Pollux**

Part two of the makeover has just begun - a new roof on some of the dog rooms, so we'll be in tip top shape to withstand anything that winter can throw at us. Having said that, winter here can be magical, and Christmas is always magical - there is much to look forward to.



## Hillside Farm Sanctuary

It hasn't been the greatest or the longest summer in history, but we have made the most of all the sunshine - not many residents here who are not sun worshippers, provided suitable sun beds are provided of course. Yes, there is a scramble for the best ones! Dogs and cats!!

We've been treated to a fantastic live wildlife performance every evening! A beautiful young vixen comes every night for supper - she has immaculate table manners, eats slowly and delicately, savouring every morsel and then she trots off to the woods - the cats watch all this through the window, quite mesmerised as are we!

Heartbreak came with the loss of **Grommit** (14) petite little fluff ball, **Chloe** (16) also petite, but sleek with a big voice, **Quince** (16) little Collie cross with a big heart. **Smokey** (15) Cairn cross who was the very heart of our Hillside family for so long - precious, priceless, photogenic and adorable now reunited with his mum and lifelong friends **Lady** and **Titan** - what a great family they were. We've also lost **Pusskins** (16½) gorgeous chunky tabby, rightly crowned "Queen of laps". **Macey** (20) with the longest whiskers ever and **Oscar** (14) darling Collie who loved squeaky toys.

We are honoured to have shared many moments of love and joy with them all and they will be sorely missed.

Lots of new puss cats have come to stay! First, a family of four - **Breezer** (9), very mischievous, **Misty** (9) very ladylike, **Cindy** (10) one of the boys, and **Leni Lenope** (14) - named after a lost Native American Indian tribe, he **is** the "chief". He's handsome, proud, talkative and clever. Food and superior comfort are his



Misty



Breezer



**Leni Lenope**



**Jake**



**Rickie**



**Bernie**



**Stephanie**

relentless pursuits, in that order. He can and will open the microwave, he can and does get in the fridge, he can and does open biscuit cartons, he can stand on his long back legs to “catch” food on the counter, he is a rogue! A very lovable rogue. Whenever he then decides to recline, that's where he's going whether it's occupied or not, and he gets away with it!

Then **Jake** (10) came - he's a water baby! When he's not trying to swim in the water bowls and fountains, he's in the sink waiting for us to turn the tap on so he can shower and play with the water! He also loves being cuddled like a baby and you could carry him around all day like that with no complaints!

A family of three arrived next, **Stephanie** (12) a petite girl with a big appetite, **Ricki** (12) bashful and playful and **Bernie** (10) adventurous. A very close knit family, each with their different little ways that seem to compliment each other perfectly! All for one and one for all, no prizes for



guessing we call them the three musketeers!

**Miss Ziggy** (18) is a torti with attitude - she joined us in July and hasn't looked back. She loves people - on her terms - and doesn't let anyone, human or feline, get between Ziggy and her food! She's fascinated by the goats and spends hours watching them. She's a darling girl for all that!



**Ziggy**

Then came **Bootsie** (15), sweetest black and white fluff ball with a little white moustache! She has the loudest meow in the world and she'll sit and holler if she feels her food isn't coming fast enough or if she doesn't fancy what she's given - where's the fresh chicken?



**Bootsie**

**Casper** is 20 years old but he is a fine, handsome, regal boy who is also very fit - a real sun worshipper, he loves just to soak it up lazing on the lawn. Easy going, he gets on well with everyone tho' they are very respectful of his superior wisdom from the extra years of experience.

We were thrilled to welcome **Lily** (11)



**Lily**



**Casper**



**Sara**



**Charlie**

beautiful greyhound - a graceful, gentle soul who forgets she's retired and loves to race on those long, long legs! Typically, tho' she'll lie for hours soaking up the sun, or if indoors, stretching out on the biggest bed. Lily seems to ignore all those who just walk underneath her - except at mealtimes, she does love the grub!

And **Sara** (14) has joined us. She is a seriously honed and fit little girl with a passion for tennis balls - she raids all the toy boxes and steals them away to hide in her favourite bed which somewhat exercises dear old Vicksey Labrador who feels compelled to carry out stealth raids to get them back! Sara has a voice which she uses to great effect, no demand is refused - clever girl!

**Charlie** (12) arrived with a bang! What a gorgeous old boy he is - exuberant and clumsy and loves everyone and everything. He adores his food, and everyone



else's given half a chance. He is the perfect cuddly boy - he feels so chunky and good to put your arms around and he loves the fuss. If you stop too soon he'll wave a huge paw until you resume!

Lastly, two extra cheeky boys in the shape of **Sunny** and **Dandy** have taken up residence. Exmoor cross ponies, they are both 8 years old. It's hard to tell who is in charge here - they are both feisty and playful and their antics have provided ongoing

**Charlotte and Dandy**



cabaret for the cats whose gardens overlook their field.

All in all, summer has gone too fast - it really doesn't seem that long ago that we were throwing snowballs and wrapping presents and here we go again! Hoping for something milder but every bit as much fun. Now ... if only we can train Dandy and Sunny to pull that sleigh .....



Amy and Sunny

## Poetry Corner

Please do keep sending your poems in - those you find or those you write ...

Our first this time is from **Olwyn Matthews**

### She

My gentle precious darling She,  
I loved you so, how can it be?  
The Lord has taken you from me.

Those soulful eyes, that spoke of love,  
As gentle as a gentle dove,  
Nor more do they those eyes so bright,  
Shine with the loving, gentle light.

Now in the lonely hours of night,  
And you are gone, and out of sight,  
I seem to feel your precious touch,  
That says, I love you, oh so much.

As gentle as an angel's breath,  
That whispers that there is no death,  
I'm waiting just a kiss away,  
To dry your tears, some happy day.

When in your arms again I'll be,  
To stay, through all eternity.

And this is beautiful from **Bernie Mickelburgh**

## **This Soul of Mine**

"I'll lend you for a little while this soul of mine" God said,  
For you to cherish while he lives and mourn when he is dead.  
It may be six or seven years or only two or three,  
But will you, till I call him home, look after him for me?

He'll bring his love to gladden you, and should his stay be brief,  
You'll have a host of memories as solace for your grief.  
I cannot promise he will stay since all from Earth return,  
But there are lessons taught below I want this soul to learn.

I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true,  
And from the throng that crowds life's land at last I've chosen you.  
Now will you give him all your love nor think your labour vain,  
Nor turn against me when I come to take him back again?



## **And Finally .....**

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close. A year when once again we've helped more people and pets than ever before, a year when our precious "lifelong care" pets topped 1,000 for the first time - so my deepest thanks to all our fosterers and to Linda and Michelle at the sanctuaries. And my humble thanks to all of you, our members, supporters, staff and Patrons - it is you who make Cinnamon Trust special, and together, we have earned a reputation to cherish - and one which, together, we will maintain.

Christmas with its powerful message of love, hope and goodwill takes us forward and in going forward, we also look back, so, as ever, I ask you please to raise a glass and remember with undying love and gratitude, treasured absent friends.

Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

God Bless everyone.

**Averil R. Jarvis MBE**  
**Founder and Chief Executive**

