
NEWSLETTER

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Registered Charity No 1134680



Christmas 2015
Number 59

Dear Friends

Well the weather wasn't quite what we all hoped for this summer but we made the very best of each and every sunny day! So, too, did all the fur and feathers and our new family of squirrels who do not do wind and rain! Much more about them in Poldarves Sanctuary news but the call, when it came, was the biggest call to help we've ever had.

In Wales, in Neath, Karen Morrison had died and her wish was that all her pets come into our life long care. She rescued cats and she rescued squirrels - all had been looked after beautifully but there were eighteen cats and nine squirrels. The cats, apart from one, were all young and easily and obviously split into twos and threes so we managed to place them all in life long foster. Pixie, the oldie at 17 would come to Poldarves. The squirrels were a completely new challenge. Fortunately, Karen's son-in-law was able to continue to look after them until we made ready. First we had to obtain a licence to keep



them and permission to move them from Natural England and then, complying with all statutory regulations, construct a home for them consisting of a large warm indoor home, a big covered patio area and a huge outdoor adventure playground. It was important to us that all their natural behaviours should be catered for and to that end, we set about and completed our task as quickly as the weather allowed. Then, nine little squirrels safely cuddled up in their dreys and one little cat made the journey to Cornwall and the rest, is history, as they say!

You've been extraordinarily brilliant with fundraising, our volunteers have been fantastic helping 10,686 people with 16,029 animals - so, time to share much more news ...



Catalogue

Have we got some super goodies for you! Lots of perfect Christmas presents, especially the chocolates which are truly scrumptious, the very, very popular doggy treats and catnip mice and there's a dinky little cat Christmas tree decoration - and much more ...

As well, our eagerly awaited exclusive Christmas card and this year it's Cinnamon Christmas Pudding. I'm often asked "how does the card come to be?", so here goes: first, dream up the theme for the year, then think how you can portray it and what the residents will need to be doing. Next, the fun bit - I visit each sanctuary in turn to photograph residents doing things that will translate into the card - everyone joins in and it's hilarious! Once the photos have been developed, pick the ones that will feature and send to our brilliant artist Linda Rush having had a long chat about the final "picture". Linda does a pen drawing for me, we have another chat and then Linda works her magic. Finally, the card manufacturers add the gold foil where we've asked them to and hey presto! another fantastic card. Hope you love it!

Here are this year's stars:



Barney (14)



Billy (14)



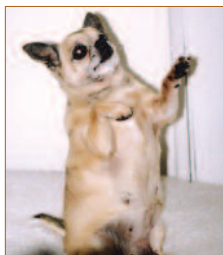
Catherine



Charles



Dermott (10)



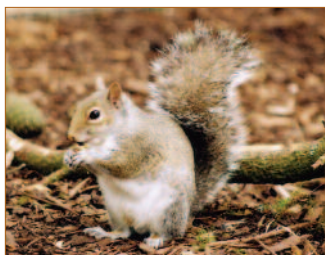
Elizabeth (13)



Foxy (17)



Fred (15)



Harry



Jack (10)



Jiminy (14)



Lola (9)



Petronella (7)



Saffron (15)



Sharlie (15)



Teasel (16)



William

CT '100' Club

Winners who have each received £25 are: April: **Gloria Morris** (Kent), May: **Anita Lawson** (Surrey), June: **Sandra Herd** (Scotland), July: **Linda Calderwood** (Gtr Manchester), Aug: **Sandi Jones** (Berkshire) and Sept: **Elizabeth Wilson** (Hertfordshire), Oct: **Janet Tilley** (Dorset).

Forms for the new start are enclosed. If you pay by standing order and wish to continue, just send the form back marked "existing standing order" and we'll send your new number.



Fundraising Events

The Engine Inn (Cornwall) raised £119.50 from three pub quizzes, **Vikki Holden** (Lancashire) held a raffle at **Gilmore Veterinary Surgery** and raised £165. **Helen Charman** (West Sussex) ran a quiz for colleagues at **Arun District Council** and raised £40. **Janet Morgan** (Worcs)

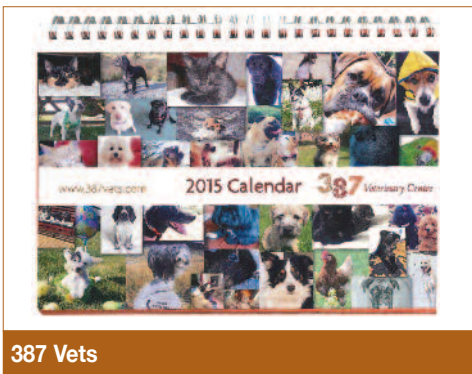


Janet Morgan

with help from **Chris Hyde** and partner **Kevin Lenaghan**, **Emma James**, **Heather Earp**, **Heather Martin**, **Helen West**, **Jackie Mu** and **Michael Barstow**, **Jane Simons**, **Jean Smith**, **Jean** and **Chas Wesley**, **Joan Westwood** and partner, **Sandy McNerlin**, **John Parry**, **Kim Danks**, **Laura Gould**, **Lynne Warren**, **Michael** and **Val Dawson**, **Nicole Green**, **Pam**

Holliday, **Pam Jameson** and **Steve** her friend, **Sandra Hill**, **Sheila Clifford**, **Tish Edwards**, **Val Dawson**, **Val Rowlands**, **Wendy Ralphs** and **Emma French** participated in Waitrose Community Matters, Hanbury Countryside Show, held various stalls, gave several talks, attended outings like Love Your Pet Day at Webbs Garden Centre, special thanks to **Amanda** and **Malcolm Sunter** for hosting **Animals R Magic 2015** at The Jinney Ring Craft Centre once again and to **Carolyn Baldwin** and **Holly Burman** for their time, patience and support, all raised a wonderful £5,955.56. **Christine Lawn** (West Yorkshire) and **The Lupset Park Group** are still going great guns and raised a fantastic £835 from all sorts of events. **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) raised £112.93 at their stalls at Folland Organics and Aylsham Market. **Karen Taylor** (Somerset) raised £79.79 from a collection tin in BRI Hospital Coffee Shop and a stall at South Gloucestershire Council Christmas Fayre. **Christine Harrison** (Lancashire) made and sold some gorgeous handmade cards, which she sold at C J Masons

Veterinary Surgery to raise £37. **Sheila Gozzett** (Devon) raised £55 by dog sitting for friends over several months. **Rev Chris Upton** and the congregation of **West Baptist Church** (Yorkshire) raised £152. **Lizzie Rigby** and everyone at **All Animals Vet Clinic** (Essex) sent £100 from their fundraising, **Chris Hills** (Leicestershire) raised £250 from a raffle at the The Musculoskeletal Symposium, **Judy Westacott** (Devon) raised a fabulous £350 at an Elizabethan Market Stall and **Shirley Robinson** (Somerset) raised £116 at two coffee mornings and bring and buy sales. **Colin** and **Heather Stepney** (Dorset), with help from **Bruno** and **Dudley**, held a New Year buffet for friends, neighbours and Thursday Coffee Club members to raise £157, **Sian Wade**, **Sarah Brunsdon** and **Charlotte Didori** (Warwickshire) held their super annual coffee morning and raised £185. **Rachel Duncan** and all at **387 Veterinary Clinic** (Staffordshire) raised £341.14 from a charity calendar, a scrummy bake sale, 'guess the money in the tin' collection and the calendar cover stars are all clients. **Lucinda Quinton** (Devon) raised £100 from a dog show as part of Appledore Regatta. **Dermot** and **Sue Allen** (Norfolk) raised a stonking £1,071 from their East Ruston Holiday Cottages. **Mary Smith** and **Barbara Smith** (Kent) raised £1,010.91 from their fundraising events, throughout the year - fantastic! **Maggie Martin** (West Sussex) with help from **Ruth Touhey**, **Jan Churchfield**, **Geoff** and **Shirley Weston**, **John Martin**, **Inge-Lise Newnham**, **Sue Flynn**, **Lorna Bolger**, **Angie Carter**, **Valerie Conway**, **Mike Solomons**, **Judith Davies** and **Ann Ferris** raised a stunning £1,797.45 from all sorts of events including dog shows, coffee mornings, talks and sales. **Angie Nye** and everyone at **Sunshine Care** in Plymouth raised £230 from their raffle. **Louise Matlock** (London) raised £300 from sale of her wonderful handmade Christmas crackers, **Emma Waller** and everyone at **Axe Valley Vets** (Somerset)



387 Vets



A winner at Maggie Martin's show



Raymond Scott collects from Sunshine Care

raised £50 from selling tennis balls 3 for £1, a customer from the local tennis club donates the balls! **Bristol Vet School Centaur Society** (Somerset) held a raffle at their annual ball and raised £500 - marvelous! **Alison** and **Peter Hanson** who run **The Cat Gallery** (Yorkshire) nominated us as their charity of the year in 2014, and raised a staggering £3,237.05 through their online mail order catalogue & are supporting us again this year - brilliant! **Tracey Larvin** (Worcestershire) raised £20 at her 50th birthday party. **Irene Trayfoot** (East Sussex) held a coffee morning at The Cedars Care Home and raised £50. **Christine Townsend** (Leicestershire) raised £25 in lieu of voluntary hours at Lands End Europe. **Fine Tubes Ltd** (Devon) matched the money their employees raised throughout the year and sent us £150, **Mara Allen** (Essex) held a Bake Sale fundraiser at her office and raised a wonderful £195, **Hyde Park Vets** (London) raised £124.98 at their Charity Dog Show and **Doreen Gillman** (Dorset) raised £40 from a private book sale. **Dorothy Fruin's mum** (Yorkshire) made some lovely Christmas cakes, they held a TV quiz at work, knitted for a Spring fair and raised a fantastic £100. **Admiral**



Jackie Bell wins Christine Crewe's raffle



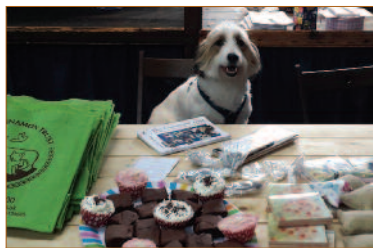
Karen Taylor's Easter chicks

Charity Cards (Northants) sent us £7.16 royalties from personalised Christmas Cards. **Richard** and **Bernice Miller** (Norfolk) raised £250 from a country market stall and the sale of some Cliff Richard plates, **Stevie Stephens** (Dorset) raised £60 at a stall at the Animal Aid Fair, **Rosaline Newman** (Wiltshire) raised £25 by knitting and selling dolls clothes and **Marlene Freeman** (Northants) tirelessly knitted fingerless wrist warmers and hats which **Gill Duroe** sold at her agility club and they raised £150 - perfect! **Margaret Armstrong** (Essex) raised £120 from knitting and selling her lovely fair isle gloves. **Carl Drinkwater** (West Midlands) and his friends and family raised £280.85 from recycling. **Lisa Marks** (Somerset) ran The Yeovil Half Marathon and raised £142.76 - well done! **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) raised £297.04 from The Scola Christmas Fair and raffle and The Whitehall Easter Fair. **Peter** and **Stella Barnes** (Essex) celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and raised £100 in lieu of presents - congratulations! **Beverley Paton** and all at **Smurfit Kappa** (Flintshire) held a dress down day and raised £75 for us. **Karen Taylor** (Gloucestershire) raised £126 from knitting and selling her lovely Easter Chicks at work. **Mrs Dunbar** at **Planters Coffee Shop** (Kent) raised £100 - sadly this is the last donation from Planters as she is now

retiring, we wish her all the best. **Janet Hobbins** and everyone at **Ferrars Co-Operative Women's Guild** (Bedfordshire) raised £400 from competitions and quizzes, we were their Charity of the Year. **Muriel Thomas** (Dyfed) raised £150 from making and selling gorgeous patchwork bags as well as her show fees as she has retired from showing her beloved Corgis. **Lynn Levick** (Hereford) and her sports massage students attended a martial arts event and raised £178.69 from competitors massage and they were kept very busy!! **Marie Williams** (Cornwall) raised £45 selling Easter chicks knitted by one of her work colleagues. **Michael O'Connor** and **Karen Bailey** from **Mika Recruitment** (Dorset) raised £75 from their company's first quarter placements. **Helen West** (Staffordshire) raised £57 from a stall at the Worcester Cathedral Pet Blessing Service and selling items to work colleagues. **Anne Drinkwater** (Staffordshire) raised £70 from her stall at the Doggy Day Out at Middleport Pottery, sold lots of yummy homemade cakes. **Mrs Beattie** (Devon) raised £50 in lieu of presents at her 100th birthday party - many congratulations! **Fay Fitch** at **"The Grooming Parlour"** (Suffolk) has been busy, she raised £240 from her 'pop in nail clipping' service - fabulous! **Angela Harris** (East Sussex) raised £100 from her stall at the Bishopstone May Fair. **Claire** and **Charlie** at **Westfield Vets** ran The Bath Half Marathon and raised £456.50 - very well done! **Jean** and **John Atkinson** raised £100 from their recent Ladies Night of The Lodge of St. Cystenin (Gwynedd). **Margaret Pengelly** (Cornwall) held a coffee evening, she was delighted when her cat Little Midge won a prize! She raised £83.84. **Waitrose Allington Park** (Kent) raised £197 from their "community matters token scheme". **Gill Mason, Christine Smith** and **Amber** (Suffolk) completed the Felixstowe Rotary Charity Fun Run (this was in memory of Amber's owner Christine Harry) and raised £75. **Jenna Fenton** and everyone from **Asda Hayle** raised £50. **Carolyn McConnell** and her colleagues on the older adult's team in **Coventry City Council** held a number of fund raising events and raised £90.50. **Mary Rogers** raised £100 from dog walking and cat feeding within her local village. **Janice Dawson** (Yorkshire) raised £325 at NAWS Dog Show.



Helen West



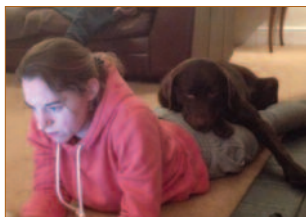
Temptation on Anna Drinkwater's stall



Claire and Charlie



Amber



Hannah Turner and friend



Sylvia, Pauline and Caroline



Joanne Beattie and colleagues



Cathy Care and friends

Hannah Turner (West Midlands) ran the London Marathon and raised an amazing £975.37 - superb, hope the legs didn't hurt too much Hannah! **Megan Crewe** ((Devon) raised £43.05 at **Orchard End Kennels and Cattery** from a raffle at the grand opening of their new cattery. **Caroline Hendra** (Merseyside) raised £96.50 from two talks and a stall. **Cathy Cuckow** and everyone at **Evolution Animal Care** raised £150 from the sale of books. **Janine** from "**Not Just Pets**" (Somerset) held an in store event during National Pet Month and raised £96.84. **Nadia Krauhaas** (Hampshire) raised £50 by completing the Southampton 10k run - another great one! This one is brilliant - **Joanne Beattie** (Suffolk) and her colleagues held a stall outside their Woodbridge Branch of **Ipswich Building Society** 'Pot a Sunflower Day' it was very popular, they raised £332.54. **Mickey Downing** (Cornwall) raised £57 from the sale of items at Porthleven Age Concern. **Carol Payne** and **Lynn Hopkins** (Norfolk) raised £30 from their garage sale. **Shirley Robinson** (Somerset) raised £215 from a coffee morning, then two bring and buy sales, with help from her friends **Lyn** and **Dave Dixon** who made cards for her to sell. **Jeanne Thomas** (Pembrokeshire) raised £45 by knitting and selling Easter chicks and a dog show. **Lititia Matthews** and colleagues at **Independent Financial Management Service**, Hayle, raised £52.00 from the sale of donated items from staff and clients which included duck eggs!! **Janet Drewett** (Cornwall) raised £200 from Soup Lunches held in St Feock Methodist Chapel during the winter months. **Fiona Liversidge** (Devon) of **FIFI's Supper Club** had a fantastic first event with her pop up restaurant, they enjoyed great food and raised a wonderful £100.25. **Cathy Care** (East Sussex) with friends **Angie Hubbard**, **Pat Hales** and her dog **Sam** raised £119.78 from their stall at the Hastings Animal Charities Fair. **Elizabeth Mays** (Nottinghamshire) nominated The Trust to be her charity of the year while in office as Chairman of Ashfield District Council, she sent a fantastic

£1,511.22 from various fundraising events.

Ann Canfer (West Sussex) raised £20 on her stall, **Sue Jones** (Lincolnshire) organised a Craft Fair in Sleaford and raised £489.50 - terrific!

Christine Derham (Suffolk) raised £90 from the sale of her wonderful peacock feathers, **Judith** and **Barbara** (West Midlands) held a table top sale and raised £50 in appreciation of help given to **Laura** and **JD**. **Sue**

Thompson at **Dunstable & District Orbit Club** nominated us as one of their Charities of the Year and raised £500. **Jayne Dennison** and everyone at vets

Swayne & Partners raised £45. **Isabel, Sophie, Charlotte, Ellen** and **Maisie** (Essex) held a carnival for their parents whilst on a camping trip and raised £6.14 - lovely! **Sian Perry** (Carmarthenshire) raised £92.32 from a dog show she organised and **Lauren Goodall** (Somerset) raised £30 from selling dog and cat treats on a stall at her local fete. **Pat Coyne** (Kent) and the residents of **Thanet's Hanover Estates** raised £27.10 from a coffee morning.

Wendy Cusden (Cornwall) donated a piece of furniture which **Blackwater Pine Antiques** sold for £100. **Lucy Ellis** had a stall at Sibley Gala and raised £60 with some great games and competitions for youngsters. **Bronwen Batchelor** (Norfolk)

recently got married and raised £265 in lieu of wedding presents - many congratulations Bronwen!

Stella Smith (Carmarthenshire) raised £45.40 from car boot sales and collection tin and **June Elliott** (Buckinghamshire) abstained from presents at her 70th birthday party and raised £100 - fabulous.

Brinny Lyster (Cornwall) raised £125 from pet feeding and sitting

for friends in her village, there are many happy friends and pets as only the fish don't get cuddled! **Daphne**

Devonshire (Devon) sold her friends stamps to raise

£22.



Dunstable & District Orbit Club quiz



Lauren Goodall's stall



Fun and games with Lucie Ellis



June Elliot and friends



Bronwen Batchelor



Bythams with Careby and Creton Parish Churches Ride

Bythams with Careby and Creton Parish Churches

(Lincolnshire) raised a brilliant £850 on their BCC sponsored ride. **Jackie Langley** (East Sussex) held a garden party for friends, they all enjoyed tea, cakes and strawberries and raised £100 - sounds delicious!

Elaine Hayes (Surrey) raised £60 on her stall on a wet and windy day! **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £143.60 from her stall, a dog show and sale of items at the Laburnum Hotel and **Outwood Ladies Group** (Yorkshire) held a charity afternoon and raised a stunning £1,052.09. **Morwenna** and **Jaanus Unt** (Devon) raised £510 in lieu of wedding



Morwenna and Jaanus Unt



Caroline Hendra

presents - many congrats and very many happy years ahead! **Caroline Hendra** (Lancashire) raised £70 on her stall and **Amanda Bennett** (Suffolk) helped friends build a shed and they donated £50.25. **Sylvia McMullon** (Surrey) and friends raised £72.40 from their afternoon tea party. **Angela** and **Robert Pethick** (Cornwall) raised £200 from the Trevalga Fete, **Bernice Miller** (Norfolk) had a stall and also sold items on Gumtree to raise £248. **Rob** and **Tiffany Greenoak's** friends (London) raised £236.75 in lieu of wedding presents - more congrats and every happiness! **Rosemary Vernon** (Norfolk) raised £150 in lieu of presents for her 70th birthday. We were nominated by customers to receive a fantastic £1,000 from **Yeo Valley Farm's** Yeokens charity tokens. **Redbridge Ringcraft** (Essex) sent a final £15 from their club funds before finally closing - very sad, **Severn & Avon Working Gundog Club** raised £100 and **Brentwood & District DTC** raised £100 from their Christmas raffle. **Welsh Terriers & Friends** raised £70.10 from the sale of their Welshie calendars - excellent! **Southampton & District Canine Association** raised £40.50 from two sponsored



Rob and Tiffany Greenoak

stakes classes at a recent show and **Dog & Owner Training Group** (Kent) raised £100. **Bridport Dog Training Society** raised £60, **Teesdale Flyball Club** raised £120 at their Halloween and Bonfire Night gathering - sounds great! **Echo Dog Training Club** (Kent) raised £70 from their Easter, Halloween and Christmas Dog Parties. **Hampshire Gundog Society** nominated us as their Charity of the Year and raised £100.15 from various events. **Jan Knott** (Hants) raised £100 from a charity box and raffle at her PET Dog Club Meetings. **South West Terrier, Lurcher, Family Dog & Ferret Club** (Devon) raised £250 - sadly they are closing down this year. **The Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain** (Lancashire) raised £75. **The Welsh Corgi Rescue Service** (Kent) raised a magnificent £2,000. **Norfolk Dog Training Society** raised £339 from a raffle and tombola at their Easter Show. **Iver DTC** (Buckinghamshire) raised £500, **Windsor Gundog Society** raised £50 from a raffle at a recent show and **Malmesbury & District DTC** raised £100. **Nantle Vale DTC** (Gwynedd) raised £100 and **Avon Working Trials Training Society** raised £250 from events during the past year. **Margaret**

Symons nominated us and **Ely & District DTC** sent £569.96 - sadly they have now closed. **Cheltenham & District DTC** raised £200, **Woodspring DTC** (Somerset) raised £100 at their Companion Dog Show. **Cranbourne Companion Dog Show** held their 30th and last event and raised a brilliant £930. **Teamwork Training** (Lincolnshire) sent the proceeds of their recent raffle of £19.25. **Laleham DTC** (Middlesex) held a Fun Dog Show and raised a brilliant £800.



Teesdale Flyball Club halloween night



Hampshire Gundog Society



Finalists in the Laleham DTC fun dog show

Wow! You've been magnificent once again - from beautiful weddings, exhausting marathons, shows, tea parties and so much more you've raised enough to pay for the whole of our new and amazing squirrel house and adventure playground and our new tortoise home and so much more as well. Thank you very, very much and please never stop!!

Volunteer View

Our first view is from one of our brilliant Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers, **Emma Greaves** in the West Midlands.



“Volunteering with The Cinnamon Trust - a personal journey

I started volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust as part of my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in the Spring of 2014. I was really pleased when I was allocated to Cassie a ten year old Springer Spaniel.

Cassie lives with her owner **John Knowles** not far from where I live so walking her once a week on a Sunday was

easy for me to do. Once Cassie and I had become friends I decided to take my own dog Heidi, a German Pointer, along as well. Cassie and Heidi got on very well and enjoyed their weekly walk together. They are very different in temperament Cassie loves to play ball, whereas Heidi loves to investigate the undergrowth and bushes, but they always keep an eye on each other and regularly check what the other is doing during our walk.

I have found my volunteering to be rewarding and now that I have finished my Duke of Edinburgh I will continue to walk Cassie, she has become part of our family, we even exchanged gifts at Christmas!

I have also organised a bag packing event at my local supermarket, and have helped transport a dog whose owner had been taken into hospital from his home to a foster home and then back again when his owner recovered.

All of the work that I have done with The Cinnamon Trust has been worthwhile and has helped me grow in confidence and realise that helping others by giving my time is a small thing that I can do with a huge positive impact on the dogs and their owners that I have helped to support.

Some people have asked me if walking Cassie every week is too big a commitment, but I don't think it is, particularly when I would be walking my own dog for an hour, in fact it is a win win situation, Cassie gets her walk, John knows that Cassie has had exercise and that she has had a lot of fun in the park, Cassie also gets to socialise with my own dog, and Heidi gets to socialise with Cassie, so we all benefit. When my dog was ill and could not come for her walk on Sunday, Cassie missed her and the two are firm friends now.

Sometimes I have asked my own friends to come and walk Cassie with me, and whenever I ask anyone there is always a positive response, people now ask when can they come again, and one of my friends has now also become a volunteer for The Trust as well.

I thought I was just going to walk a dog for the duration of the Duke of Edinburgh, I didn't realise how important it was going to become to me, Cassie herself, my own dog Heidi, and to Cassie's owner John. I also didn't realise that in Cassie I would be making a canine friend for life, it has been a rewarding and amazing experience."



And this from **Loraine Hawkins** in London:

"What a lovely surprise when the chance to walk Freddie, a little hearing dog (little in stature, but big in personality), came my way. His owner, Pat Pile was friends with the owner of a dog I had walked some years before, so we had something in common. It's a small world in Winchmore Hill.

Pat and I soon became firm friends, and I got to know her sister and children. Lynn (Pat's daughter) sometimes brings her Jack Russell called Milo - renamed by me as Milo a Minute as he dashes around at break-neck speed and I take both Milo and Freddie out. Then the circle widens, as my two grand-daughters (who are big supporters of The Cinnamon Trust) also come along. It's a mutual love affair and I attach a picture of them with Freddie.



Freddie is a king amongst dogs. He greets me with wags and licks. We have a play then he sits and stares at me and Pat says - "he's ready to go now" - we both laugh. In the park I meet friends of Pat's whom Freddie instantly recognises and "Fred the Ted" as Freya and Florence call him, is a magnet for both adults and children as he is so adorable.

I contacted The Cinnamon Trust after my husband died as I wanted to get out of my house whilst I took a break from work and being a life-long dog lover, it was the perfect thing for me to do. I work full time now so the weekends are the only time I can walk Freddie, but what a joy that is. We stop in the café on the way round the park and he always picks up his pace on the way home, as he knows there is a treat in store when he returns. Once indoors Freddie flops into his basket and my services are no longer required. Pat and I laugh at the "I've finished with you now" look on his face - what a star!

For me, I've made new friends, and I have introduced another friend (Steve) to The Cinnamon Trust and he also walks Freddie. The circle just keeps growing. The grand-children help me at my annual Cinnamon Trust garden party, friends help with tombola stalls at local events - you just can't stop The Cinnamon Trust when it gets rolling - I would recommend it to everyone - hop on and enjoy the ride! A big lick, a waggy tail - you can't get better than that!"



Elaine Beardsley-Turton CBE (Nottingham) accompanies her son, **Alex**, also volunteering as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Alex and Rusty

"My son Alex was looking to undertake some voluntary work as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. He loves animals and so when we saw an advert in the local free paper from The Cinnamon Trust we just knew this would be a perfect fit. The Trust has a designated Duke of Edinburgh coordinator which was reassuring and made things very straightforward.

Just before Christmas we were introduced to Beryl and her 13 year old Yorkshire Terrier called Tiger. A terrific little dog, Tiger really enjoys her walks in the local park, showing a mischievous interest in the resident squirrels.



Tiger

A couple of weeks later we met Mickey and the irrepressible Rusty, his 9 year old Jack Russell. Mickey had just come home from hospital after major surgery. Having spent their summers together on the river, Mickey and Rusty both miss the outdoor life. Mickey's determination to overcome every obstacle and get himself fit and well is an inspiration.

It is great for Alex to combine his love of animals with an opportunity to help other people. I also secretly welcome an excuse to get him out in the fresh air and away from his X-box! Spending quality time together where we get to have a proper conversation has been an unexpected bonus. The Cinnamon Trust has been a fantastic new experience for both of us. Thank you."



Anne Wright in Kent says:

"I first saw an article about The Cinnamon Trust in my local newspaper some 15

years ago and realised immediately that this was just the charity that I needed to support. I am passionate about animals and elderly people, and The Cinnamon Trust seemed to fit the bill for me!! I love dogs but working full time in London at the time meant I was away from home far too long to actually have a dog of my own, but walking someone else's dog for them at the weekend and knowing that this dog would be getting a lovely walk or run in the park which they wouldn't be getting otherwise seemed a wonderful thing to do.



Kym and Ben

I telephoned The Cinnamon Trust immediately and had a conversation with one of your lovely staff who told me more about your incredible charity. Forms were duly sent to me and completed and I waited with anticipation for news of a dog and owner who might need my help. Within a month that phone call was received and the dog that was assigned to me seemed to have been sent especially for me, I couldn't believe it. Black Labradors are my favourite dogs, I used to own one before I got married and I have a special soft spot for them. The dog I was asked to walk was a black Labrador, his owner's name was Wright (the same as my name) and he suffered from MS (my mother had also suffered from MS). It seemed so right for me to be walking this lovely boy. I walked Quin for many years until his owner finally moved back to Yorkshire to be nearer his family. I just loved that beautiful boy and our Saturday and Sunday morning walks were a delight. He had been so well trained by his policeman owner before he became ill that Quin was a real credit to him.

Shortly afterwards I was contacted by The Cinnamon Trust again and asked if I would help out with walking two dogs, an Alsatian crossbreed and a Bearded Collie belonging to an elderly housebound lady. I walked these two dogs for a number of years until the dogs sadly died of old age and then the lady herself died a while after.

I now walk two West Highland Terriers for another housebound lady and thoroughly enjoy it. They are gorgeous little boys, "the twins" as they are known in the local park. They are so well behaved and although they are nearly 12 years old, have so much energy and run and play together like puppies. No-one that we meet on our walks can believe they are 12 years old. They often wear little matching coats on cold or wet days, (they have quite a wardrobe of them) and so many people stop and comment on how lovely they are. **Dorothy Brooker**, their proud owner, just loves them so much and loves to hear about their escapades in the park each time we come back. I always go in for a cup of tea and a chat with Dorothy after our walks and have become firm friends with her. Dorothy says her boys are so happy and content after their walks that they curl up in their beds and

sleep happily for the rest of the day which makes her so happy too. Before The Cinnamon Trust came into Dorothy's life, she had been so worried about her beloved boys not being able to get out for walks, but now all that has changed and everyone's life has improved for the better - the boys, Dorothy and also mine!! I get regular exercise walking two lovely dogs that give me a great welcome each time I arrive and lots of kisses of thank you when I leave, together with knowing that I am making a difference to someone else's life. Thank you, Cinnamon Trust, for all that you do for the dogs, the owners and for us volunteer walkers as well."



And From Twickenham, **Julie Hill** writes:

"Last July, my family and I had to make the very hard decision to have our beloved Weimaraner put to sleep. In addition to missing him terribly, I also missed our daily walks. People say hello when you have a dog with you! I longed to walk another but paid dog walking just didn't appeal. Then I discovered The Cinnamon Trust....



I applied to become a volunteer and actively looked on your website for dogs to walk in my local area. After just a just a couple of weeks I was asked if I would take a female Staffordshire Bull Terrier out. The Trust asked me to feedback on how she was on a walk so I chose a route which exposed her to traffic, prams, and children, other dogs and even ducks and Saffy passed the test with flying colours, not reacting to any of them. I think she actually preferred life on the sofa!

Saffy was a Battersea Dogs' home rescue and due to illness, her elderly owners were not able to walk her anymore, so I was delighted to become her official dog walker, taking her out four days a week and another lady, Victoria takes her out for the other three.

I am fortunate to live in the London Borough of Richmond on Thames, where we enjoy wonderful Royal Parks, the River Thames and an abundance of other parks and green spaces.

Over the past six months Saffy and I have really got to know each other and she loves her walks. It is a joy to see how much she enjoys herself, running about, finding different trails, discovering new scents and even doing the occasional "point" at interesting things! (I didn't know Staffie's could "point"!). Saffy is visibly fitter too, having lost 5kg and much better for it. I understand that Saffy is much livelier in the house too.

Mr and Mrs Simpson are a lovely couple and I am just sorry that they can't be there in person to see for themselves how much Saffy enjoys the Park. I tell them about our adventures though and made a montage of photographs of Saffy for a get well card when Mrs Simpson was in hospital recently. I know they are happy and have peace of mind that Saffy is enjoying lots of walks and fuss.

Walking for The Cinnamon Trust is fantastic. You not only help owners and their dogs, but you help volunteers too."

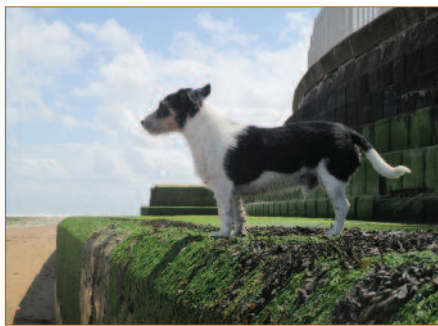


Vanessa Shingles in Kent says

"Ted

Animals and people have always played a very important part in my life. However, due to my present circumstances, I'm unable to have a pet at home at the moment, so when I heard about The Cinnamon Trust through our local Community Magazine I immediately decided to volunteer as a 'dog walker'. Everyone at The Cinnamon Trust was so positive and the Newsletter full of such uplifting, true-life situations of people and animals wonderfully helped by The Trust and volunteers throughout the country.

In April I was delighted to meet Ted, a lively eight year old, long-haired Jack Russell and his owner Arthur. Arthur and Ted are devoted to one another but Arthur is unable to take Ted for walks at the moment as he is waiting for two knee replacements. Ted is very friendly and we were soon off on our first walk to the park where he had great fun exploring under the trees and bushes, racing on the grass and greeting other dogs.



When I arrive at his house, he now bounces up and down by the front door as if on a trampoline, wagging his tail madly, hardly able to contain himself while Arthur puts on his harness and lead.

Once we're off, he finds great pleasure in every new sight and sound, watching the birds and hoping a cat will appear; fortunately, he's apprehensive of buses and other enormous vehicles so he walks well away from the road when they pass nearby.

Ted's favourite walks are on some of our local beaches where he varies his

activities depending on the tides and the weather! He loves racing along the sand, digging up mussels and other seashells, investigating dogfish which have been tossed ashore in stormy weather and exploring the seawalls and rock pools where he paddles but never swims. One of his favourite pastimes is rolling on drying seaweed or dead crabs, then shaking vigorously and racing off to investigate another exciting sniff.

Ted thoroughly enjoys meeting and greeting dogs of all shapes and sizes, especially those of his own size. We've met many dogs which have been saved from awful circumstances, including a group of dogs recently rescued from Serbia; it's a real joy to see these dogs now able to run and bounce about happily, free from fear and abuse.

Ted enjoys a rest at the end of his walks when he drinks water rapidly as I pour it out of a bottle (he refuses to drink from a bowl of any kind and has a special container in his garden at home). He'll frequently lie on the grass in hot weather, roll over and wait for his tummy to be tickled. He's a very intelligent little dog with a great character - he knows how to reach home from any direction, recognises my car and that of his other Volunteer, Clare, and watches mobility scooters with interest to ascertain whether they belong to 'his Dad' or not.

Recently, poor Ted had to have several teeth extracted and then unfortunately had an abscess that flared up, causing swelling to his left cheek and jaw - he never complained but was obviously feeling under the weather; he's been on a course of antibiotics for a week, the swelling has nearly disappeared and thankfully he has regained his bounce.

It is a real pleasure taking Ted for walks and something he revels in too but he is always thrilled to see Arthur when we return home and wags his tail energetically, is usually given a treat and listens intently as Arthur recalls some of his interesting stories from the past. He then flops down on his bed for a rest or lies in the garden sunbathing!

My thanks go to The Cinnamon Trust for the wonderful work they do in helping so many elderly and terminally ill people to keep their pets while at the same time enabling so many volunteers to gain happiness by meeting and helping others and their pets."



And this is from **Jackie Shaw** in Shropshire:

"I have loved animals for a long time, especially dogs, having more or less grown up with them but my life was changed when I had my own little dogs, when I was

older. Equally, my life changed when the time came to say goodbye to them.

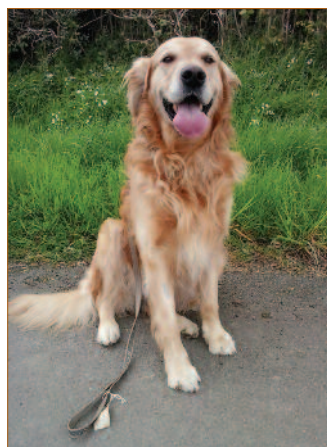
I wondered for a long time how I could have dogs in my life without the full responsibility and fortunately I knew a lady who told me all about The Cinnamon Trust, so I decided to make contact and put my name down to become a volunteer. I was, however, very worried that I could not commit to much time and felt that I might therefore not be successful but my mind was soon put at rest when I received my first call in May 2009. There was a lady, reasonably locally, that could do with some help with Sam. Sam was a beautiful, Golden Retriever and around 7 years of age. I, firstly, telephoned Gwen, Sam's Mum and had a

lovely conversation and soon discovered that she would welcome any time at all that I could spare which concluded with a good walk once a fortnight. It transpired that Gwen and Sam had known another lady, Karen, from the Trust but very, very sadly she had been killed in a road accident after only 3 months of knowing them.

Walking Sam was a whole new experience. He was so full of life, nosey and very crazy. Gwen told me about the all the things he would get his nose into and the things that he would eat - basically anything that he came across. I remember very vividly on our first walk, Sam made a grab for something, in the road, he was so quick and before I had chance to stop him, all I could see was a rabbit's ear poking out of his mouth! I hasten to add that the rabbit had already departed from this world before Sam found it but I was devastated. I had to tell Gwen because what happened if Sam became poorly. Fortunately, he was perfectly ok. I re-christened Sam, Marley because having just read the book, I could see so many similarities with their personalities and mischievous ways. Luckily, I was soon able to increase our walks to once a week and always looked forward to seeing him.

Sam's mum Gwen is an absolutely lovely lady, one of the very few genuine people I have the privilege to now call a friend. She has always asked if I would like a drink after our walk and it is always accompanied with something tasty. Gwen and I are partial to a good old chat and we put the world to rights whenever we see each other. We have known each other for over 6 six years now but very sadly Sam passed away early last year. Myself and another Cinnamon Trust walker did all we could to help Gwen in her quest to find herself another companion because Sam's passing was sorely felt.

In April 2014 Ben came along. Another mad, mischievous Golden Retriever which Gwen rescued via the Golden Retriever rescue centre. Ben was just under 7 when he arrived and he settled down in no time at all. Mind you, anyone would in



Ben

Gwen's capable hands. She is so caring and thoughtful and Ben is so happy, it is blatantly obvious. I have also been able to help out a little more and see Ben twice a week now and he also has another new walker who also helps out twice a week, so Ben is a very happy boy who enhances my life massively. He always greets me with big barks and a desire to get on and I love to feel wanted, even if it is only for my walks and occasional biscuit.



Flash

I have also been lucky enough to have a little lady come into my life in the form of a cocker spaniel called Flash. She is around 5 years of age and is also a live wire and cheeky with it. Flash did not have a very good start in life but soon found her feet with Daphne and Tom, who now find themselves also requiring a little help. I am more than happy to oblige. When I arrive at their home, I can see little Flash's shape through the glass pane of

the door and her little tail is wagging furiously. She greets me with so much enthusiasm and stops for a quick tummy rub before we are off. She first investigates all the neighbours' gardens (I believe she has prior consent!) and then I pop her lead on and off we go. Flash is not so keen on other dogs and hides behind me if they approach but she loves attention from people. She loves to investigate all the hedgerows and see if she can see anything to chase and she loves a paddle in the little brook we pass. I have only known Flash and her Mum and Dad for just over a year and I know, like Gwen, they really appreciate my help but I always say that this is a win win situation for everyone. Mums and Dad receive the help they require, doggies get their walkies and I get my doggy interaction. I love being with them, exercising, being outside, talking to them and inevitably making me smile with their antics. The pleasure I get from being able to help and be with dogs is second to none.

Thank you, Cinnamon Trust for introducing me to some very special dogs and of course, to some wonderfully, lovely people. My life has, once again, been changed, for the better."



In Glamorgan **Gerald** and **Beverley Cumpstone** are busy:

"I first heard about The Cinnamon Trust a few years ago. We were out for the day

and I met a lovely lady walking a gorgeous golden retriever. She explained that she had previously walked the dog for the owner who was unwell but was now fostering the dog on a long term basis as the owner was in a care home. She visited the owner regularly and gave her photos and updates on her dog. She then explained about The Cinnamon Trust and all the amazing work they do.

At this time I didn't own a dog, had never had a dog and had barely walked one!

Fast forward a few years and I was the proud owner of a beautiful but timid ex- breeding rescue Schnauzer called Luther. I remembered the lady with the retriever and together with my husband decided to apply to become volunteers for The Cinnamon Trust. We were approved and within days were asked to help walk a cairn terrier called Charlie. Amazingly we knew the dog and his owner Muriel as she



Alvin and Luther

was a member of our church. She was in hospital after having a stroke but was due to come home shortly and had asked them for help in walking Charlie. When she and her daughter realised it was us that would be walking him they were very surprised. We had both applied at the same time!

Sixteen months later we still take Charlie and his tennis ball for a walk every Tuesday. He is very easy to walk and he and Luther (our dog) happily ignore each other for an hour!

In February this year we received a call asking if we could take a Shih Tzu as an emergency foster. His owner Mrs Matthews had been taken into hospital and he needed somewhere to stay. We were a little hesitant because of our dog's fear of other dogs but decided to say yes. A few hours later ALVIN arrived. He ran into the room, onto the sofas and beds, onto our laps and totally made himself at home. He appeared totally happy to be here. The only sign that he was a little bit sad was his refusal to eat. I decided to hand feed him and he was soon fine and eating normally.

We looked after Alvin for 7 weeks in total. In the house he was the most loving cuddly dog in the world. He followed us everywhere and if we sat down he had to sit on our laps. That was the rule! In the outside world things were a little different! Alvin needed to be kept on a lead as his recall was not up to scratch and

we didn't want to risk losing him. But this made him quite lively to handle as he felt the need to warn off every dog - big or small - that came within a 100 yard radius of him. This involved pulling and loud barking. Mostly once he got close to the other dog he would be fine. As we own the most nervous mild mannered dog imaginable who has never barked in the 3 years we have had him this came as quite a shock to us and also caused amusement amongst our fellow dog walkers. He loved his walks though and ran happily to us to have his harness put on. So many dogs to bark at - so little time.

During Alvin's holiday with us I was able to visit Mrs Matthews in hospital and could reassure her that he was happy and cared for and was able to show her some photos of him. We also kept in touch by text.

When Mrs Matthews recovered and it was time to take Alvin home I asked if I could do that as I wanted to see the reunion. As I drove him home Alvin had one last sting in his tail! He managed to free himself from his harness in the back seat and jump onto my lap as I was driving. With nowhere convenient to stop I had to drive the last few minutes with Alvin's bushy tail waving about in my face. Fortunately we both survived. When we arrived at his house he ran to his owner and toys as if he had been gone for 7 minutes not 7 weeks! A happy ending for all and a much loved dog who didn't have to spend those weeks in a kennel."



Hilda Anders' daughter **Debbie** wrote...



Minstrel and Hilda

"When my Mum was first in Hospital she was too poorly to even be worried about Minstrel, (which really showed to me she wasn't well at all as she's devoted to her dog). But it was a tremendous relief to me and her other daughters and son that once we had contacted The Cinnamon Trust a perfect foster home was quickly found for Minstrel. We had regular updates on how Minstrel was settling into his temporary home. He settled in really well, being accepted by their dog and was even allowed to sleep in their bedroom which was perfect for Minstrel as this is where he sleeps at home.

I am happy to say that Minstrel is now home with Mum and The Trust is helping to dog walk Minstrel. Suffice to say that Mum who is 88 would not be able to have her much loved dog with her

if it was not for this amazing organization and its volunteers.”

.. and from Somerset, **Hilary Darke** says:

“Dear Minstrel a very beautiful black and white Cocker Spaniel who was so obviously loved, so friendly, sprightly and young at heart. One could not believe he was 13 years old!

We fostered Minstrel for 10 days, he was a delight to have but kept looking round the house and out of the window. We think he was anxious to find his owner who we think missed him very much. However, after a day or two he settled perfectly and started to enjoy himself. He loved his walks, his food and treats and was a perfect gentleman with our female Bichon.

We have very fond memories of Minstrel and still talk about the time he came to stay. The best thing is that we know he is back with his mum, he would however be welcome back anytime!!”



And this from **Jean Holland** in West Sussex:

“When Deborah phoned at the beginning of the New Year and asked whether I would be willing to short term foster two Scotties - just couldn't believe my good fortune. In my salad days I had been fascinated with this breed, my then boyfriend (who turned out to be the person I married) gave me a wonderful silver/marcasite brooch of a Scottie. During our married life we had a Labrador and then a Standard Poodle, the latter being my choice. When I was on my own I had a faithful Yorkshire Terrier for 15 years. Strangely never giving a thought to a Scottie. Just before Deborah's 'phone call 3 different Scotties passed my house on the way to the beach, which brought back thoughts of long ago. Now was this wonderful opportunity to have not just one but two!

Polly and Sally (sisters) were brought to me by Marcia who is their Cinnamon Trust walker, Doreen their loving owner has needed some support. Such a joy to see them, we all went into the house the dogs immediately settling, sniffing around and then exploring the garden which backs onto the Prom. While us humans had a cuppa Polly and Sally made themselves very much at home. One evening whilst watching TV the dogs became very interested in animals which came briefly onto the screen. When I learnt that there was to be a programme - 'Pets - Wild at Heart' I thought they would like it which they did, watching until it ended!

Polly and Sally were a truly wonderful sister act. Thank you Cinnamon Trust for

trusting them to me, they gave me great pleasure for the two and a half weeks that they were with me.”



A sad tale with a happy ending from **Linda Strawford** in Suffolk:

“I volunteered to foster dogs whilst their owners were in hospital. Last December I was asked if I could foster a King Charles Spaniel, named Danny as his elderly owner was being admitted to hospital. He was his owners’ companion and she was so distressed at being separated from Danny. I was asked by her daughter, if I would meet her mother and collect Danny. I could see that Danny and his owner were devoted to each other, and as his owner felt she was losing all that was familiar to her, I said I would take Danny to see her every Sunday.

My lasting memory is of a very elderly lady, bewildered by the changes in her life, whose face lit up as I stood at the door to her room every Sunday with her beloved Danny. Sadly Danny’s owner died in the hospital, towards the end of January and The Cinnamon Trust set about finding him a life long foster home. Danny is now in his new home in Somerset and is having a wonderful time with country walks and days out to the seaside. He enjoys playing with his new mummy and daddy and their grandchildren. I am so fortunate as I receive regular updates. Danny had been hand fed lots of human treats, cake and biscuits and had to have 10 teeth removed, he also had heart problems. A change of diet and regular exercise and his health has greatly improved. The Cinnamon Trust arranged for Danny to have a thorough medical before he went to his new home.

Whilst Danny will always be on medication he is enjoying his new life. He had been a great companion to his original owner, now he is having a dog’s life.”



Gill White in Oxfordshire writes:

I have been a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust for a couple of years now and was so very excited when I got a call to ask if I could foster two Chocolate Burmese boys for 5 weeks. I'd lost my last cat just over a year before and really wasn't sure if my heart could cope with another cat. This would be a good test for me.

Unfortunately the reason I was fostering Tiffin and Tarquin was a very sad one. Their Mum wished to travel to America to visit her daughter who was terminally ill. However, she was jolly pleased I was able to look after them and I went for “an interview” just after Christmas to see if I was up to the job and meet the boys. I fell in love with them instantly and couldn't wait for the day they arrived at my house.

The day before they arrived I set to and covered my beautiful high gloss dining room table and sofa and chair, took all my nick nacks off the window sills and units (as I had been told they like to climb) and sent my plants out to their foster home (as I had been told they liked to chew them).

Being typical Burmese, they yowled most of the way from Didcot to Wokingham! They arrived Sunday lunchtime and being used to a small flat, found the stairs most exciting. This set the tone for their stay. They are such handsome boys - Tiffin aged 8 I think and Tarquin only 1 have very distinct characters. Tiffin is the boss and is most wary and tends to analyse situations. Tarquin, the trouble maker, is like a small boy, straight in to any situation, jumping and rushing around. I'm sure I heard him giggling! I left them to settle down and went about my chores, but I couldn't help noticing Tiffin had a mucky eye. They found the highest cupboard in the kitchen and stayed there for the rest of the day, only coming down when they felt a bit braver. However, by the end of the day poor Tiffin's eye looked like he'd been hit by a boxer and was completely closed up and mucky. You now need to imagine me climbing onto my kitchen worktop, standing up and trying to reach Tiffin on the highest cupboard with about 8 inch space between the top of the cupboard and ceiling and trying to bathe his eye with salty water! He was having none of it and I was getting a sore neck!



Tiffin and Tarquin

Sleepless first night and seeing his eye no better in the morning had to take the poor boy off to my vets 24 hours within his arrival. Neither of us were best pleased, even less so when I was told I would need to administer eye drops! The vet put one lot in which meant I had a few hours to work out how exactly I was going to do it, but the roller coaster ride we went on for the next 7 days was worthy of a carry on film! However, I was obviously managing to get a drop in every now and again as his eye healed up. I soon realised that I needed not just my trousers and jumper on, but dressing gown over the top as I had already sustained quite a few scratches. Phew!

We spent the following week getting to know each other and generally settling down. Then, to my horror I noticed scabs/ulcers on the inside of one of Tiffin's ear and also his nose. Off we went again to the vets who confirmed it was his skin condition and asked me if I would like tablets or prefer an injection. I think you know what I plumped for. After all, my scars were just healing from the eye drops! After a few days we settled down again and got into a nice routine of them waking me up between 5 - 6am with horrendous yowling, but then later on cuddles and purring.

I tried to video the running up and down the stairs game as it was hilarious, especially by Master Tarquin. As he was only a skinny little boy, the momentum of him hurtling himself down the stairs took over and when he reached the bottom he skidded across my wooden floor and hit the wall. Not wanting another trip to the vets with broken bones, I decided to move my rug to try and soften the blow, but it wasn't so much fun and I took it away again. Another highlight was Tiffin halfway up the stairs deciding he was going to chase his own tail! Hilarious moment of madness from a cat who was normally so "grown up" and considered.

When it was time for them to go home I was ready as Spring was arriving and I was really missing not being able to open the windows and doors and I know their Mum was missing them terribly.

Once they had gone I missed them terribly and kept on catching them out of the corner of my eye, although they weren't there. I missed their beautiful furry bodies next to mine in the morning when we played Bedouin tents under the duvet, but not their nighttime yowling. Now they are back with their Mum and it all seems just a distant, very happy memory."



David and **Georgina Kemp** in Gloucestershire say:

"Having registered with the Trust in 2012 we were disappointed initially when we had to turn down helping at Christmas due to looking after our son's dogs. In February 2013 we received the call that was to change our future. Could we look after two male Chihuahuas aged about 11 for a few weeks.



Jo and Gyp

On the 16th February we collected Jo and Gyp from a local kennels and straight away our hearts were captured. This adorable pair entered our home and our hearts. We were concerned for their owner and wished her a speedy recovery never knowing at the time that fate would change the situation.

The "doglets" as we affectionately began to call them settled in quite well we found it strange that they made hardly any noise with the exception of Jo letting us know when he was hungry and both of them warning off other dogs (this we found was a fear aggression reaction know in small dogs).

They both loved to settle on the sofa between us and when out walking loyally staying at our heels. Needless to say time marched on and their owner had to go

into a care home due to mobility problems. We were then asked if we would like to become their long term fosterers. Our emotions were torn as we were sad for their owner but overjoyed that we would be able to love them for longer.

We holidayed up and down the country with them - Pickering, Coombe Martin, Lake District to name a few. Both of them had very distinctive characters, Jo was very forward and Gyp more cautious.

Sadly in November 2014 Jo became sick and within a few weeks we lost him to cancer, this at the time left both Gyp and ourselves devastated and we had to come to terms with the changed patterns this created. It took us a few months to get back to some routes, some of our regular walks we found either we or Gyp could not do, but slowly life patterns in our household returned and Gyp came into his own, we saw him change in character as previously he had been the quieter one, he now has a funny way of prancing when he wants to be lifted on to the sofa and the bed, He gets to sleep on the bed now, which they did not do when there were two as we were always feared of them jumping off during the night, but Gyp is a dog that likes to sleep a full 8 hours so no worries there.

Jo and Gyp have enriched our lives in many ways, as Gyp continues to do, by making us smile and laugh every day without fail, by encouraging us to go out and about meeting other dogs and their owners, and most of all by the great love and loyalty given to us."



Now let's catch up with a few more of the 1,267 pets we currently support in lifelong foster homes.

First, and this is brilliant, **Bailey** enjoying life with **Reverend Steven Fletcher** in Cornwall.

There is a little dog in Cornwall that is gaining quite a reputation for himself as a regular churchgoer with the Church of England!

Bailey is a seven-year-old Jack-a-Poodle, who has been given a home by the Revd. Steve Fletcher, who is the non-stipendiary assistant curate of a group of eight rural churches situated West of the city of Truro. Bailey was rehomed with Father Steve, after his original owner, Josie who sadly has terminal cancer became too poorly to care for him. But Josie lives just three miles away and receives regular visits from



Reverend Steven Fletcher and Bailey

Bailey in the comfort of her own home, and is delighted that Bailey has settled in to a new life with Father Steve.

And what a busy life he's got! He is now a well known little character around the village of St. Day, where he enjoys four walks a day in the surrounding countryside, and has been attending church services, Lent courses over Easter and even ethics and gospel classes at Truro Cathedral! While Father Steve is officiating at the altar, Bailey is looked after by doting members of the congregation, all equipped with pockets of treats and titbits and when he can't take him with him, for whatever reason, a neighbour, who lost her own dog a year ago, and is now too disabled to have another, looks after him in the comfort and safety of her home with its stone walled garden.

Father Steve is also carer for elderly members of his family, and Bailey goes on daily visits to them, where he makes himself at home amongst the mountains of toys and balls he has been bought!

"He's a real little character," said Father Steve. "Everyone's taken to him and I have to make sure he's not being too spoiled by them all. Bailey doesn't like to be left alone though, so my situation here in the parishes and with my caring duties, are perfectly suited to him, as there's always someone around to be with him." Bailey recently went for his twice monthly grooming and trim and came home looking very posh!

"People didn't recognise him in the street!" said Father Steve.

"But everybody agrees, his neatly cut and groomed coat looks great and he really enjoys the attention!"

Bailey has settled in to his new home really well, loves his visits to Josie, and is a proper little gentleman when attending church and cathedral! Father Steve is now looking for a plain white dog collar for Bailey, to match his own!

"Everywhere I go people say I should get Bailey a white dog collar as we both have the same colour hair - grey!!" said Father Steve.

"It would be a bit of fun, after all, he is the parish dog now, but we don't seem to be able to find a white collar anywhere! We shall keep looking!"



Gillian Mackintyre in Somerset has a special friend in **Bobby**.....

"After losing our old cat a few months ago my husband and I thought we would never get another cat as no cat would be able to replace him, but the hole left in

our lives was so great it just didn't seem right for us to be without one.

Working as a Veterinary Nurse I knew of The Cinnamon Trust and the fantastic work they do. One day, when the house was feeling particularly empty I decided to ring The Cinnamon Trust to see if they felt my husband and I would be suitable foster carers. Right from the start everyone at the Trust was so lovely! They had a nice chat with me about the sort of home my husband and I could offer and before I knew it we'd had our home check and had been matched to Bobby; a cat looking for a long term foster home as his owner had recently died. He sounded ideal for us as he was looking for a quiet life with no other pets. Unfortunately, he was up in Leeds so a couple of weeks later we made the long trip to Leeds and back from Somerset to pick up our new addition.

As soon as we got home Bobby went straight under the bed and that was to become his sanctuary on and off for the next few days. He came out to explore for short times, then went back so I set him up a little bed so he could nest under there comfortably.

Over the next few weeks we all got to know each other and Bobby's little personality started to shine through. With the help of the notes left by his owner we got to know his likes and dislikes and he's now got his own little routine which includes an afternoon snooze and plenty of playing in the evening. He loves his balls and will even bring one of them over in his mouth to be thrown.

It hasn't been totally smooth sailing. His insistence on using absolutely anything to sharpen his claws on except his scratch post has been a particular challenge! Feliway provided by the Trust has helped a lot. We are now getting there as he has started to use his post and I think my furniture may soon be safe!

Bobby has been a wonderful addition to our family and The Cinnamon Trust have been absolutely fantastic, both in the lead up to getting Bobby, and their support since. The long term help and support they give to foster carers is brilliant and I can't recommend them highly enough.

I am so glad we've been able to welcome Bobby into our family. He has done far more than replace our old cat, he's become a very special friend."



Digger is enjoying adventures with **Derek** and **Glory Kent** in Dorset

"Little Digger came to us on November 13th 2014, in need of TLC. His owner was no longer able to care for him due to dementia. He was, at 12½ years old, very bony and had lots of bare patches, despite this he quickly settled into his new



life and made himself at home. Going out in the car worried him, but I suppose most of his car trips had not been fun outings.

He loves his toys and although he now has a basket full, his favorite is the little kong that came with him. His old familiar cushion is in a soft basket in the bedroom and when he gets chilly he creeps into bed and goes under the covers.

He loves his treats and does a little treat dance when he thinks he should have one (or two).

He wasn't sure about the garden at first but loves it now and if I am out there gardening, he brings his kong and drops it in my bucket, and if I don't notice, then he barks to wake me up so I can throw it for him. Despite being an energetic little dog, he doesn't like walks, although we can now go happily round the streets near us because he knows the way so chooses which direction and how far we will go, but parks, open spaces or long walks are a no no and this is where the Buddy Rider comes in.

I have recently (in my old age) come back to cycling but don't enjoy going out and leaving him behind, now I won't have to, as this little seat fits on the bike with a cushion for comfort and a harness to hold him safely, now we can go out and enjoy rides together.

Digger is the third dog we have fostered from Cinnamon Trust, and when you lose one it feels like the end of the world and you think you can never do it again, but then there is always another little one needing someone to love them and they in their turn help you fill the hole in your life. Each dog you have is special and all have a place in your heart which is theirs alone, but we do rely heavily on you for help and support and without you being there for us, we couldn't be there for them, so thank you Cinnamon Trust, together we make a great team."



And **Wendy Mills** in Leeds loves life with **Poppy** and **Dimples**

"I enrolled with The Cinnamon Trust in the Summer of 2014 as a volunteer dog walker. I used to walk a lovely little dog called Lucy until sadly her owner died. I fostered Lucy short term until a new home was found for her; it broke my heart letting her go to her new Cinnamon home. I then realised that I could have my own little dog permanently and applied to be a long term fosterer through Cinnamon Trust. My home was checked by a fellow Cinnamon Trust volunteer called Robina who was lovely, I was approved and the wait was on.

I got a call six weeks ago from Moira telling me about two little Cocker Spaniels (Poppy and Dimples) who's owner had recently passed away after a long illness. These little girls had been in kennels for 20 months!!! It was their owners wish that they be kept there and she was able to visit them couple of times a week until her death and then The Cinnamon Trust was contacted by the kennels for help as the owners wish was that they would be homed together by The Trust. Once I had seen a picture of these girls my heart melted and knew I had to meet them, despite a three hour drive to Nottinghamshire where they were in Kennels. I was worried if I could cope with two, what would they be like after being in kennels for so long, would they settle? A million questions!!!!



Wendy Mills with Dimples and Poppy

After several conversations with the kennel owner Colette, I planned to meet the girls on the 25th May (Bank Hol Mon) my daughter, a friend and myself travelled the long journey to Nottinghamshire. On arrival we were met by the two giddiest most loving little girls you could wish to meet, both prettier than their pictures. Following a lovely meeting, a spot of lunch and a little walk, they jumped straight into the car and came home with me only bringing an old quilt.

Once home the girls had a good hour exploring their new home but settled really quickly. The next day was exciting, new beds, new collars, leads, food, toys. I have only had a couple of nights where I have been woken, but other than that things have been brilliant.

It is now seven weeks since I got the girls and I have enjoyed every minute with them, every day I learn something new about them and their little personalities, every day and they never fail to make me smile. Having two has been quite hard as I am a novice owner, but I have not once regretted my decision. I enjoy taking the girls out for their daily walks, but it takes so long as everybody we meet stops for a stroke or a chat, they're beautiful.

I can't thank The Cinnamon Trust enough for introducing these two little dogs into our family; they have been extremely generous and supportive throughout. Thank you."



Jacques had only been with Elizabeth for a short while before she sadly died suddenly. Now he's winning hearts in Norfolk with **Andrew Taylor** who writes:

"We have a 12 year old Jack Russell on long term foster from The Cinnamon Trust.

His name is Sketch. He's had a bit of a tough life, not the most attractive of dogs, but he has a cute roughness about him. Nothing matches. One eye bigger than the other, half his teeth missing, his left side doesn't quite match his right side. We nicknamed him Spud. He is however the most loving, quiet Jack Russell you could wish for. Over the last year he has developed Dementia and is often off with the fairies in a world of his own.

We thought perhaps a friend for him might bring him out of his shell a bit and give him some company when he is 'with us', which to be fair is still more than half the time. We told The Cinnamon Trust that maybe Sketch could perk up if he had a buddy. An afternoon with a very lovely 2 year old Jack Russell was just too much for poor old Sketch, so we told the Trust that was not going to work. Moira then told us of a Chow that need to be fostered with another dog. Ok, we thought, Chows are supposed be pretty chilled out dogs, lets give it a try.



A three and a half hour drive on a very hot day and we arrived to see Jacques. Wow, the cutest teddy bear dog you ever saw, a chocolate brown fluff ball. A little shy and timid, but still very friendly. We took them out together onto neutral territory to see how they would get on, and hey presto, they seemed to like each other without leaping about. Sketch is too old to run much and Jacques is too chilled to get too exuberant so it

seemed like a good match. After an hour of letting them get used to each other we decided to give it a try and bring Jacques home with us.

It was a long hot journey back and Jacques was frightened when we finally made it back but we gave him time and space to find his feet and after a few hours he was fine. He settled in very quickly and is for the most part respectful of Sketch's space. They sleep in the same room and walk together well, albeit slowly! Sketch will zone out half way round a walk and Jacques will do the usual Chow trick of deciding he's had enough and will just lay on the floor and not move! With these two, getting over excited is not a problem, falling asleep is more likely to happen.

Jacques has bonded extremely well. At only 8 months old he shows a maturity far more than we ever expected. He is a star when out on a walk and it is difficult at times to get where you want to be as people always want to stop you and pet Jacques. Just as well Sketch doesn't seem to mind. He's probably happy for the

rest! The comments range from Ahh, to is that a bear or a dog mister? Everyone's an expert on exotic breeds all of a sudden!

A few days after bringing him home he went for professional groom to get some of his knots out his fur and generally spruce him up. He looked amazing, and still does as I brush him every day, which he thoroughly enjoys. As he could do with socializing we decided to take him to the local fun dog show. Just for fun we entered him in the best puppy category which he promptly won! Like proud parents we now have a first place rosette for our furry boy.

Jacques is now part of a new family and doing very well. He needs more training and socializing which he will get. We are sure he will make a loyal and loving pet. Thanks you Cinnamon Trust for letting us foster such a wonderful dog."



Andrea Hunt in Cornwall is smitten by **Mindy**:

"Little Mindy first came to us in May 2012 as an emergency short term foster after her owner was taken into hospital. A quiet, relaxed retirement home is what was on the cards for this dear little peekapoo, who was feeling quite down and lost after leaving her owner and home where she had been loved and cherished for 15 years.



Andrea and Mindy

I already had 4 dogs at home, but as she was an elderly dog which I always have a special place in my heart for, as I think they get overlooked such a lot as people think they may not be with them long, I decided to squeeze her in..... So many older dogs are dismissed because of this..... but to offer comfort, love and support to an elderly dog that has been taken away from what they know , is so much more needed as we all have to grow old.

I gave her the peace and quiet and love she needed and after a few weeks of sussing us all out, we were surprised to see the puppy in her come out. She is now the BOSS and none of my lot dare challenge that..... when food or walks or something is going on.....Mindy gets first call!

What still amazes me is although she is now 18 years old blind, deaf and has heart

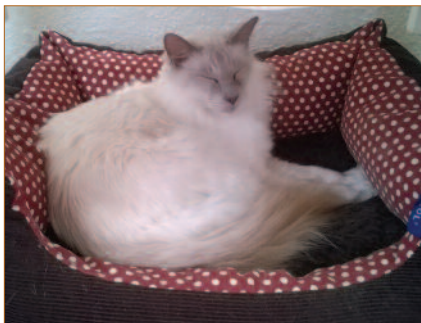
and kidney problems she is the most independent dog I have ever known..... if I pick her up when out on a walk, or stop chatting too long she makes it known with a yap that walk we must do!

We visited her owner Margery before she passed away, which was an absolute privilege a lovely lady who always made the most of what she had and never grumbled, she passed away in February 2014 at 91 yrs old, she is sadly missed by us both. Mindy now is long term adoption and I must say It has been such a pleasure and privilege to foster Mindy, The Cinnamon Trust have given me fabulous support and made sure Mindy's care and needs are always first. Thank you Cinnamon Trust for all you do and to all the lovely staff who we visit a few times a year.....Mindy looks lovely in her pink sparkly jumper you had knitted for her 18th birthday x.

When people ask me about fostering....I would say a definite yes!"



Nico, a beautiful 11 year old Balinese Lilac Point is living it up in Devon with **Kate Hutchings**



"I was first aware of Nico through The Cinnamon Trust ,heard his story (he had lost his owner and his companion cat)and knew that they were looking for a new home for him.

We weren't looking to get another cat, have two lady cats already, but something about him and his story melted my heart, and before I knew it, we were waiting for a home check to see if we might be the right family for him. We

have 2 other cats, a female Persian called Sooki who is in charge and a lovely Tabby girl who is my son, Louis', special friend and sleeps on his bed at night, we felt that as Nico was used to the company of other cats he would be able to cope with our "girls" and we have experience of grooming long haired cats, usually at night I have a cat on my lap and grooming them as we all spend time together, a very relaxing end to the day.

When Nico first arrived he was very shy and quiet. He took up residence under the bed and only came out at night time. We would chat to him and Louis my 6 year old son spent hours sat on the bed telling him all about us, and as he got used to us, he got curious. He started to show us his affectionate side and we even got the odd miaow.

6 weeks on, he is a marvelously vocal, cuddly, sun worshipping demanding diva!

And we all adore him, he has become a very valued part of the family. Even the girl cats are getting quite fond of him. Thank you Cinnamon Trust for our lovely new Furball.”



When **Jenny Byrne's** cancer spread to her brain, she was most concerned about her beloved **Patch**. She desperately wanted to meet with those who would foster him for the rest of his life. **Adrian** and **Gill Webster** passed muster with flying colours and Jenny had the peace of mind she needed. Adrian says:

“My wife and I would like to say what a pleasure it was to be able to become foster parents to Patch a most loveable Jack Russell in November 2010. Gill had always said she would like to have a Jackie, and on the spur of the moment I telephoned The Cinnamon Trust and was told about Patch living with his owner Jenny in Narbeth in Pembrokeshire. At the time we lived in Caterham in Surrey, so when we went to meet with Patch and to bring him home it meant a round trip of 500 miles, but it was worth it.



We took Patch home with his toy box, and what a needy boy he was, really nervous and missed Jenny so much, that in spite of Gill saying she would never have a dog in the bedroom, let alone on the bed, both rules were broken the day we brought him home, and ever since he has shared our bed with us.

Patch was well house trained, so we had no problem there, apart from when he gets annoyed with us, when he does have the odd accident indoors, but over time we have got used to dealing with his moods, and know when to let him out. He is a very loyal dog, and we have never had any problem with Patch running off like so many terriers tend to do. When we take him out he is forever looking round to make sure we are with him, and if he sees another dog, he tends to walk between us for protection.

In December 2012 we moved down to Kingskerswell in South Devon, and this has given Patch some new interests. He does not really like the beach and sea, but he loves Dartmoor, and walking or rather scampering up to Haytor and Hound Tor.

Patch goes nuts when Gill uses the vacuum or a brush to sweep the floor, he thinks they are something to catch, and everyone who sees him fall for his most gorgeous looks.

Thank you Cinnamon Trust for allowing us to have the pleasure of caring for Patch, and for your continued support with his long term condition. We are so lucky."



And how do those we help feel? **Ruth Tyler** in County Durham writes:

"Age UK put me in touch with The Cinnamon Trust a year after my husband died and I was alone with just my lovely little 11 year old Yorkshire Terrier, **Pickles**, who means the whole world to me and as my family and friends live all over the country he is my only constant companion.

Being disabled meant I could not take him for walks, and although we have a large garden he was missing his walks and had no real exercise - especially as he would not leave me to go far into the garden, he was doing what he had to close to the back door!

The Cinnamon Trust provided dog walkers, which completely changed our lives. Pickles is so happy, in fact he takes the walker!

My big worry was what would happen to Pickles if I was ill, or died (I'm 82 years young!) as I never want Pickles to go to kennels, he would suffer terribly.

The Cinnamon Trust has removed that fear and has recently proved just what a wonderful help it is.

I was taken ill and phoned my doctor, but just before he came I collapsed and fell. My doctor and carer both arrived. My carer rang The Cinnamon Trust emergency line and they sent my dog walker, Linda, and she came straight away. She was wonderful, picked up his beds, toys etc and took him home for a week. Pickles loves her and knows her well as she has been coming for about a year, almost every day. Linda cared for him wonderfully and although this isn't for everyone she took him to bed, which he loved and had never done before! Linda's life is very busy but she didn't hesitate, and I knew Pickles would be safe and happy.

I can never thank Linda enough, and all of you at The Cinnamon Trust.

Pickles is 11 years old and has several health problems, but is a very active, loveable, intelligent (knows everything I do and say), follows me all over from room to room, full of fun - in fact he has given me the will to keep living - which is why I can never thank you all enough."



Stuart Bailey in the West Midlands says:

"Vicky has just finished helping me with dog walking after a period of 14 months from December 2013 to February 2015.

I have just turned 60 and am the very fond owner of 2 retired rescue greyhounds, Rocky and Polo. Rocky, the female is 12, good for her age, quiet and petite, Polo, the male is 6, very large (40kg) lively and energetic. Despite those differences, they are both gentle, extremely compatible and get on well together.

I had a very bad fall 10 years ago resulting in a multiple fracture of my right leg, despite follow up operations, physiotherapy etc my mobility gradually diminished so that I was faced with the prospect of needing a wheelchair, or having a risky and complicated operation to correct my leg fractures. I opted for the latter in November 2013.

I have no relatives or friends who are willing or able to walk my dogs, so I turned to The Cinnamon Trust (of which I myself am a member) asking for help.

The Cinnamon Trust sent a volunteer called Vicky to see me and the dogs in my home before the operation and she readily agreed to help me in whatever way she could to walk the greyhounds.

Nobody, myself and Vicky included, realised that I would be incapacitated from walking the dogs for more than 10 to 12 weeks. However because of the difficult nature and uniqueness of my operation, it took over 8 months for me to just come off crutches, it has only been in the latter part of 2014 where I have been able to walk one or both dogs myself and tentatively at that. Regardless of this, Vicky insisted that she would keep helping me for as long as it takes, this was extremely reassuring to me. She fully understood my needs and concerns.

During the 14 months Vicky has consistently walked the dogs, never complaining or moaning at all to me. She has always arrived at the prearranged time in a morning and never let me down at all. Only through short temporary illness or a well-deserved holiday break has she changed this routine. Vicky selflessly rearranged her own morning schedule so that it would suit my own plans better and she has more than once turned up unwell herself, quite adamant that the dogs should be walked.

Without wishing to cause Vicky embarrassment, I can truly say that she is one of the kindest, most considerate and politest persons I have had the pleasure to meet. Good humoured, punctual and completely dependable and trustworthy. She epitomises to me what The Cinnamon Trust represents. 'Devoted, caring love for animals and a full compassion and understanding for their owner's relationship

with one another”.

14 months on from the operation, it has been a complete success. I am now daily walking both my dogs and I am independent again.

Words cannot express my gratitude to both Vicky and the Cinnamon Trust itself. Vicky will always be a special friend to me and the dogs, she will visit occasionally I'm sure (se has been made honorary godmother to the dogs!)



And **Dougal** with a little help from his mum **Yvonne Dawn Riddle** has this to say:



“Hello, my name is Dougal, and I am a West Highland White Terrier aged 13 years and five months. I believe my homeland is somewhere called Scotland, but I now live in a very nice village called Turvey in Bedfordshire. When I was younger (and after my owner found it difficult to walk me) I used to go out with my neighbour called Hilary and her West Highland White Terrier called Daisy. We had great fun together, but sadly Daisy died, and although Hilary is still

one of my best friends, we had to make other arrangements for my exercise, and that was when we asked The Cinnamon Trust for help.

I am very lucky, and now have three ladies who take me out. The youngest is called Vicky, and she takes me out at the weekends, and tells me all about her little boy called Marcus, and her new horse called Rocky. On Mondays I have Sheila calling for me. She is a Vet, so makes sure I am not getting too fat, and that my legs are working OK, as they are not very long, and do get a little tired on long walks. For the rest of the week my lady is called Wilma (and her husband often comes along with us as well). We have many nice outings, and sometimes I go out in a beautiful white open-topped car (that's us in the photo), and sometimes when it is too hot to walk far, we go to our local pub and sit in the garden (I am not sure if I should be telling you this, but it is very nice, and I only have water to drink).

Wilma has a mother who lives a long way away in Northern Ireland (Wilma has to go on an aeroplane to visit her) and I often write to her, and she sends me messages and postcards back that are addressed to me. That is very nice, because the rest of the post that arrives is always addressed to my owner. I only have one other friend who lives far away, and she is in New Zealand.

I am very grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for arranging all these lovely outings for me. Although we have quite a lot of visitors at my house, I would be rather bored here just with my owner, and the garden to play in - it is so nice to go out and meet other people.

We do tell a lot of people about you, and gave quite a few of your nice colourful bags as Christmas presents last year, so I hope you will get a few more people willing to give up some of their time for such a worthy cause.

Thank you very much, Love from Dougal.”

Volunteers who have earned **Gold Awards** for exceptional Service are:

Pauline Fulbrook (Cornwall), **Mary Ede** (Berkshire), **Marilyn Barnard** (Isle of Wight) and **Carole Curley** (Sussex).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Anne Wright (Kent), **Gillian Saunders** (Dorset), **Maureen Else** (West Midlands), **Pat Weeks** (Dorset), **Beverley Hadden** (Cornwall), **Michelle Osborne** (Gloucestershire), **Elaine Creeser** (Gloucestershire), **Sue Lester** (Wiltshire), and **Margaret McNulty** (Lancashire).

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

Sandra Gaskin (Isle of Wight), **Julie West** (Hampshire), **Lynette Evans** (Staffordshire), **Mary Pilcher** (Staffordshire), **Tracey Plant** (Cambridgeshire), **Ruth Hill** (Somerset), **Claire Farrimond-Waring** (Lancashire), **Janet Bradshaw** (Lancashire), **Raymond Betts** (Sussex), **Anthony Ison** and **Judith Ross** (Warwickshire) and **Mellieha Allen** (Norfolk).



To all our volunteers, the best ambassadors we could have, thank you. Thank you for changing lives for the better - the difference you make is incalculable. Last year you helped 11,206 people with 14,499 beloved pets.



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Summer for the most part, was playing hide and seek this year! Still, the lovely new paddling pools - a huge one for those who dared and a little one for the rest proved a great hit on sunny days and acted as supersize water bowls as well! Lots

of bunnies this year playing chase in the pony paddock in the mornings and dozing with the sheep in the evenings!! We've managed picnics and BBQ's and on blessedly warm days all the cats decamped into their gardens to take full advantage - it's quite spooky when you can't see a single pussy cat in their rooms!!

"Good friends are like stars - you don't always see them but you know they are always there" and six precious souls have left us to shine in heaven. Tiny, tough and very sweet tortie cat **Taffy** (20), another tortie **Pansy** (16), so very loving. **Cindy** (14) black and white and feisty but she melted hearts and **Blackie** (18) our gorgeous black Persian. Darling little **Foxy** (17) Cairn terrier and big, brave, beautiful **Toby** (16 ½) Labrador.

The hardest thing is not talking to someone you used to talk to everyday, sometimes we still do....

..... And then new arrivals with their own unique personalities come to add their sparkle to Hillside.



Bella

Bella (12) and **Dusty** (8) came together - both had health issues, Bella with CDRM so her back legs were very wobbly and little Dusty with Cushings so she had almost no fur and very sore skin. Both have come on in leaps and bounds, almost literally! Bella is crazy about balls, especially squeaky ones and when she wants to play ball (which is most of the time) there's no stopping her - she sits in front of you, ball in mouth, staring at you, calculating whether you are going to be a willing player, this determined she will then drop the ball at your feet but don't be silly and think you can pick it up and throw it, for as soon as you try, she'll snatch it up before you! But when she lets you throw it, it's amazing how quickly she can run in pursuit of a ball! All the space and playtime, good food and homeopathic meds are so far really helping her to keep going - never forgetting her indomitable spirit. Bella is such a loving, friendly, contented girl and all she asks for is more of the same and that if she should lose her ball you find it very quickly!



Dusty

Dusty, now stabilized on her meds for Cushings has blossomed into a gorgeous little powder puff which completely belies her tomboy nature. She has incredible eyes that speak louder than words and as she

has many words this is quite a feat! So expressive, you know exactly what she is telling you with just one look. Her curly fringe just sits on top of those big eyes and she gives you a look that either melts butter or tells you she is displeased, many a resident has been compelled to back track by just one look, especially if they get too close to her bowl or stand between her and a morsel of food! She stamps her little feet and does a twirl or several if she thinks you are too slow in preparing breakfast, lunch or dinner. She loves all food, it's only the quantity and regularity of it that worries her and she is very cunning trying to trick Bella and others off their food so she can clean up!! And the sound of the food bowls being filled or a tasty treat on the way is the only thing that will move her from her sunbed! What a diva but such a delight - very affectionate and loving, clever, cute and funny and you can have quite a conversation with her, but only once she knows you - strangers have to become friends first!!

Lola "Bear" is 9 years old. A gorgeous fluffy giant with a face that could melt an iceberg - so beautiful and underneath that so full of mischief! One of her guilty pleasures is digging up plants and she is always driving Rob crazy by digging up newly planted shrubs and depositing them on the pathway! When we can't find her, nine times out of ten she'll be snoring away deep in the cool of the flowerbed where her lovely white coat can and does, pick up any kind of debris you can imagine! At other times she just digs in the



flower pots with her nose and empties soil onto the patio - she never owns up to this, but the mud on her white muzzle is a sure give away! When you try and groom her, she fidgets like mad, allows you a little time, then rolls on her back, legs in the air, demanding tummy tickles instead! Lola is extremely loyal and very protective with a bark that matches her size and stature. She leads everyone in a very noisy chorus when anyone enters the property, as if she is demanding their ID cards and to know their reason for being here! But she obviously thinks she has free access to anywhere - she recently decided to go and visit our neighbour and just wandered into his kitchen as if she had every right to be there all covered in grass and pleased as punch! Lola showed no interest in toys at first but has recently taken to playing with them when she thinks no one is watching. Always quite a boisterous affair with the toy being tossed several feet in the air, chased and pounced on, shaken and tossed again. She also has mad moments where she chases around like a puppy - the sound effects are quite bewildering and very funny!!

Teasel and **Moss** came as a pair. Teasel is 16 and fits her name perfectly, she is a consummate tease and a real little weasel too, managing to get what she wants



Teasel



Moss

by any means necessary! Her approach to life and to other cats or humans varies depending upon circumstances - she carries with her a box of tricks and disguises and she is quick to dive in and out of this box to conjure up the right effect! She can be Mata Hari one minute, Boudicca the next and then rub against your leg like the sweetest pussycat ever without even twitching a whisker! She is very acrobatic and will leap from on high like a flying fox, not too competent in landing but fearless nevertheless. Teasel loves her food especially freshly cooked and she has an oriental voice which she uses often and to particular effect when giving advice to Rob as to how she would like her garden. She loves the great outdoors and will sit out on the wall late at night talking to the feral cats and any passers by who may need to be made aware of her presence, A huge character with the beauty to match.

Moss is 14 and identical to our female cat Jess in markings which he uses to his advantage whenever it is beneficial - especially where food is concerned. He appears in his room and then in Jess's room, more often than not fooling us all into two helpings of both food and treats. These rooms are at either end of the cattery, so he's not only cunning, he is swift! Moss also loves human food and will instantly appear when there are sandwiches and snacks of any sort - he'll harass unashamedly until you part with a morsel for him. Moss is a gorgeous chunky pussycat, he's very fit and, like Teasel, he loves to be outside and he also chats up the feral girls from the garden wall. Another larger than life character. He'll let you know when he wants a cuddle and when he doesn't, he growls!

And so, autumn settles in and winter waits her turn to bring her own special festival with the biggest and best feast of all - Christmas!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We've had some wonderful times on the beach rock pooling, racing and trying to steal picnics! We've been very busy replenishing the cat gardens with soft, tall grasses, herbs and cat mint which has all been dug up and replanted several

times!! And huge excitement with the arrival of squirrels and tortoises so tortoise gardens and squirrel playgrounds to be made fabulous.

But we couldn't escape the heartbreak visited upon us when we lost darling **Dorritt** (JR cross) (16), and top cat **Mummy T** (20); gorgeous ginger boy **Taylor** (17); **Charlie**, (16); **Harvey** (17); **Alfie**, so unexpected and our soldier boy with the biggest heart. **Ben** (Yorkie) (17). Each one loved and missed for a special reason all of their own.

And then another special girl with impeccable manners came to add her magic to Poldarves. **Tess** (14) is so, so sweet and incredibly polite - for instance, she'll stand aside to let anyone, two legged or four, go past to go through a door first and she sits like a little statue to wait for her meals - we forgive the dribbles! Her excitement does get the better of her at walk times as she gently takes hold of your arm and practically drags you out of the door. Once out, she zooms ahead, zooms back and zooms off again smiling all over her face - then she remembers her manners and waits for everyone to catch up before starting all over again. She loves our paddling pool, the river and the rock pools at the beach but hasn't ventured into the sea proper yet. And she's a gourmet, loves our home cooked menus. An adorable, gentle, very loving girl so how can you resist when she sits and looks at the treats cupboard and then back at you and repeats until she wins, ever so sweetly.

Beauty (14) **Tabitha** (9) came together and have studiously ignored each other for the duration! Beauty is stunning, very elegant, very loving and she'll let you groom her for hours - we think she deliberately collects as much garden debris in her coat as possible so that grooming has to take ages! Although she ignores Tabitha, she has made new friends and thoroughly enjoys their company. Chicken is definitely her preferred dish whichever way it's cooked. She'll play with a feather for hours and she can be naughty in deciding to play with (dig up) newly planted cat mint.



Tess



Beauty



Tabitha

Tabitha is a big, gorgeous tomboy, loves to be outdoors. Even in the most inclement weather, she'll be outdoors but in the dry of one of our little cat garden huts. She's her own girl and enjoys the live entertainment provided by the ponies, geese, chickens and rabbits (who needs other cats?) Tabitha will eat anything but she's yours forever for a treat of some ham.

Tippy (18) has stolen everyone's heart, she's so bossy with us but not the other cats! She'll tap your hand to let go and put her dinner dish down and she whacks the hoover. And she really tells us off if we're not doing whatever it is properly! She loves the gardens and she adores fish dishes. And the piece de resistance, she goes to sleep on the climbing frame with all four legs dangling!!



Pixie

Pixie (17) came with the squirrels. A beautiful girl with freckles who truly loves her creature comforts and prefers to be tucked under the blankets rather than sleep on them, she has a penchant for cheddar cheese and prefers her meals with sprinkles!! Pixie loves to be cuddled and she loves Panny (18) who has been with us for over two years and is somewhat bemused but gracefully accepts the adoration!



Bubba

Bubba (16) has the most beautiful eyes. Aloof with the other cats but she dribbles with pleasure for our cuddles and she has the most wonderful deep purr which is constant when she's eating! Bubba likes to know what we're up to, whatever it is, it has to be interesting. Definitely her own cat with her own ideas and we comply!

Timotha, Sammy and **Thistle** (all over 30) have caused great excitement and all the



Timotha



Sammy



Thistle

other residents, dogs in particular, are fascinated by them! Thistle has a nickname - Turbo Thistle - he's so fast!! And exceptionally inquisitive wanting to know exactly what you're doing and checking out every inch of where you've been. He's clever, he's quick and he has attitude in buckets!

We brought their greenhouse (day room) from their home, constructed outdoor areas around it and planted around the grass all sorts of things that they can eat eg snap dragon, fuschia, herbs and wild strawberries. We've converted one of the indoor rooms for night time safety with uv lamps for warmth.

Timotha loves her food and she loves to bask under the lamps - her particular attitude is "if you don't need to move, don't!" she does like a warm bath and general pampering as befits a mistress of the household.

Sammy has a special tortoise toy which we have to take everywhere for him - he probably loves it a little too much! It's consolation for not being able to get to Timotha who would spurn his advances sternly. He absolutely loves strawberries so we hope those we planted will fruit.

After weeks of preparation - obtaining the license, building a large, insulated bedroom surrounded by a huge outdoor playground with a covered patio area, trees, ropes, branches, all sorts of wonderful nests and boxes and toys we were ready and couldn't wait for the squirrels to arrive. **Catherine, William, Henry, Edward, Charles, Victoria, Elizabeth, Alice** and **Anne** (who have somehow nabbed the collective "The Royals" from my Corgis) were all rescued as orphan babies, and after vet treatment were taken on and beautifully cared for by Karen Morrison.



Alice



Charles



Anne

We weren't disappointed! They all came out of their dreys, which came from home and are now up in their bedroom, and one ran straight up and under Tracey's polo shirt! Lovely, gentle, adorable in fact - they have incredibly soft fur and they love to climb all over us and even try to bury nuts in your hair! They find pockets and hoodies and anything else they can get into irresistible. They love their new home and race and climb and hide and dig and nest and swing and debark all the trees!



Edward and Victoria

We give them something different each day, branches of trees with berries and leaves, or hanging apples and sweetcorn, peanut butter stuffed in pine cones, the dogs' treat ball filled with nuts. They love each other and it's so sweet when they play their special games and when they groom each other they make cute little squeaky noises. Victoria loves to have her tummy tickled!



Anne and William

We are so lucky to have them - incredible time wasters, endless fun and so much love.

We're now dreaming up what their Christmas treats will be and how to decorate their patch at the same time as looking forward to log fires, turkey dinners and a very special pudding!! The tortoisés, of course, will just sleep through it all....



Poetry Corner

Our first tear jerker was written by **Michael Michalak** and **Stella Cornell**

The Kitten

He crouched behind the factory door
And I thought that I would cry
It seemed the world and maybe more

Had looked and passed him by.
So small and weak, and oh, so thin
Just bones in tabby fur,
But when I stoked him he'd begin
To roll and softly purr.
His eyes were green as leaves in spring
His heart so big and bold,
Oh how I loved that little thing
That shivered in the cold.
I turned to slowly walk away
As the rain began to fall,
But through the bleak November grey
I heard his plaintive call.
I gathered up his tiny form
And clutched him to my heart,
I held him there so soft and warm
And vowed we'd never part.
But soon his spirits slipped away
And on my lap he died,
A tiny ball of black and grey,
My tears I could not hide.
Now by the cherry tree he lies
Far from the snow and ice,
Perhaps the hand that closed his eyes
Strokes him in paradise.



This is a classic by an unknown author

Courts of Heaven

High up in the Courts of Heaven today
A little dog angel waits;
With other angels he will not play,
But sits alone at the gate.
“For I know my master will come,” says he
“And when he comes he will call for me.”

And his master far on the earth below,
As he sits in his easy chair,
Forgets sometimes - and he whistles low
For the dog that is not there.

And I know when at length his master waits
Outside in the dark and the cold:
For the hand of death to open the gate
And to lead to those courts of gold;
The little dog angel's eager bark,
Will comfort his soul in the shivering dark.



And Finally

For nearly thirty years, Sir Peter O'Sullivan CBE has been a Patron of Cinnamon Trust. His moral support, his frequent "pats on the back" through all the years, but especially at the beginning when I often despaired of ever really bringing this to where it needed to be, his unwavering loyalty and belief has meant more to me than words can say. That he should lend his name to The Trust was all the more remarkable because, at the time, he didn't know me, HQ was my kitchen, we had no sanctuaries, no staff, no money and maybe twenty volunteers. Now we have a recently extended, prominently placed HQ, 12,000 active volunteers, 62 members of staff, the two Sanctuaries. We have 1,267 pets in lifelong care, 9,003 pets registered, should they need us. Over the years we've helped nigh on 250,000 people with nearly 300,000 pets and our catalogue is the mainstay of many local enterprises.

With the death of Sir Peter O'Sullivan in July, we have lost a true friend.

Christmas with its timeless message of hope, peace and love fast approaches and, as ever, I ask you please to raise a glass and remember with eternal love and gratitude absent friends, and will you also raise your glass to a gentle man, a kind man, a man I was so proud to call a friend, Sir Peter O'Sullivan.

Happy Christmas to you all and may 2016 bring all you wish for.

God bless everyone

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

