

NEWSLETTER

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Registered Charity No 1134680



Christmas 2016
Number 61

Dear Friends

Ducks - lots of them were a dominant diversion late spring, early summer, some of them are really rare and special - all are now an ever present delight - much more about them in Poldarves news. And much more, too, about our cover boy, the stunning **Bertie** here with **Emma**, Senior Sanctuary Manager, who many will have been charmed by when visiting Poldarves.



Aside from all that excitement, our volunteers have been busier than ever with walkies, fostering, visits to vets, home checks and more, and you've been terrific with fundraising events so there's enough to share to fill a book and I've had to whittle it down to a newsletter! Here goes ...



Catalogue

Some really original gift ideas - the little Love Birds measuring cups are really sweet as well as useful, and what about soap wrapped in alpaca felt! Quite a few items back by popular request and lots of truly scrumptious indulgence

Our exclusive Christmas card is entitled Cinnamon Christmas Sleigh Ride and I hope you'll agree it's stunning with lots of gold foil - once again Linda Rush has worked her magic on our photos. Here are the stars:



Leo (18)



Bertie (13)



Jenna (17)



Bob and Zak (11)



Harry (9)



Honey (15)



Jack (12)



Barney (15)



Billy (15)



Leo (13)



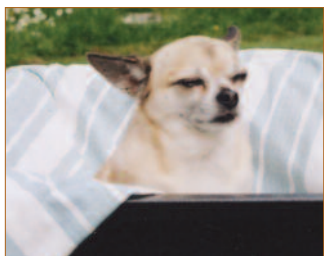
Lola (9)



Moby (10)



Murphy (11)



Toadie (8)



Nala (6) and Pumba (2)



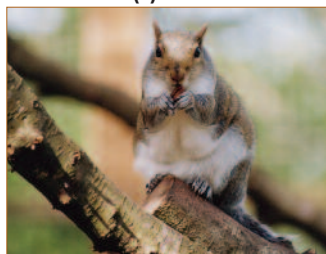
Simba (5)



Thistle (over 30)



Ruby (6)



William (8)

CT '100' Club

Winners who have each received £25 are: Apr: **Diana Dallier** (Oxford shire), May: **Hazel Without** (Cornwall), June: **Mary Valance** (Oxfordshire), July: **Ginny Campion** (Norfolk), Aug: **Elizabeth Rix** (Lincolnshire) and Sept: **Jean Attwood** (Sussex).

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



Peter Hanson

A great one to start off! **Peter Hanson** (York) runs **The Cat Gallery** with his wife **Alison** and he completed the Yorkshire Marathon, dressed as a cat, in memory of his beloved **Geoffrey** in the brilliant time of 3hrs 50min and raised a fantastic £1,850 for us! They again nominated us as their Charity Of The Year and raised another stonking £2,718.88. **Mary Smith** (Kent) and her friends raised £550 from her activities on eBay and selling super garden

produce at the garden gate. **Tim Weeks** (Surrey) raised £74.75, royalties from his books. **Maddy** and everyone at **Broomhill Vets** (Yorkshire) raised £261.25 from their fundraising events. **Elie** and **Pauline Kadoche** (Devon) raised £100 from their Christmas Draw at **Underwood Corner Shop**. **Judy Westacott** (Devon) again held her popular stall at Totnes Elizabethan Market and raised £400. **Janet Bullows** (Lincolnshire) and the congregation of **The Vine Free Church** raised £75 from their coffee morning. **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) raised £182 from her stall and raffle at Rosebery Manor. **Sheila Purnell** (West Midlands) raised £356 on her



Lorraine Hawkins

table top sale and tombola. **Colin Morris** (Cornwall) sold lots of books on his doorstep and raised £120. **Christine Sumsion** (Somerset) raised £155 from various events. **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) raised £282.93 from a meat raffle, prizes donated by **Pat Pile**, a tombola at The Nice Green Café at Forty Hall and a talk to The New Welcome Club. **Gill Duroe** (Northamptonshire) raised £275 by selling trainers and walking shoes and the wrist warmers that **Marlene Freeman** again tirelessly knitted. **Alison Hillyer** (North Somerset) and all at **Bleadon Country Sports** raised £200 from their Autumn Show. **Tonia** and everyone at **Orchard Vets** (Nottinghamshire) nominated us as their Charity of the Year and raised a fabulous

£499.37 from various events, including **Marie Derry** who had her long hair cut off. **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) is truly a star! With help from **Cynthia Husbands, Chris Hyde, Heather Martin, Jane Simons, Jayne Walker, Jean** and **Barry Smith, John Parry, Kevin Lenaghan, Lynda** and **Alastair Matthews, Sue Bradford, Wendy Ralphs** and **Val Rowlands** she raised £830 from various events and then helped at **Animals R Magic**, together with all the above and **Ann Allbutt, Carole Lynn, Jean** and **Chas Wesley, Chris Everall, Emma French, Hilary Atkinson, Jackie Murrall, Jane** and **Michael Barstow, Jannye Holmes, Jo Sadler, Joan Westwood, Kim Danks, Lucas McClure, Pam Chadaway, Pam Jameson, Sheila Clifford, Sandra Hill, Sandy McNerlin, Tish Edwards** and **Verity McClure** to raise a magnificent £5,088! **Christine Harrison** (Coventry) raised £100 from her table top sale. **Audrey Breckon** (Co. Durham) sold her lovely knitted baby clothes to raise £100. **Elizabeth Stevens** (Devon) and her **Brownie and Rainbow Pack** (5-7 year old girls) held a sponsored walk and raised a very special £130.40. The residents of **Grove Place Retirement Village** (Hampshire) raised £50 at The Little Shop. **Teresa Thatcher** and everyone at **Highcroft Vets** (Bristol) raised £105 at their Christmas Fayre. **Lilian Quick** (Cornwall) raised £135 in lieu of presents for her 90th birthday.



Marie Derry



Janet Morgan

Eileen Hammond, Chairman of **The Inner Wheel District 10** (Herefordshire), nominated us as their Charity of the Year, and raised a terrific £1,829.98 from all sorts of events including a fashion show and tea party. **Sian Wade** (Warwickshire) with friends **Sarah Brundson** and **Charlotte Didori** raised £130.50 at their unmissable annual Coffee Morning. **Christine Townsend** (Leicestershire) raised £100 through her employer's scheme



Audrey Breckon's baby knitware

(Land's End UK) in appreciation of her volunteer work. **The Animal Welfare Society** held a bake sale on University of Exeter campus and raised £75.25. **Axe Valley Vets** (Somerset) raised £80 from the sale of Christmas cards. **Jean Foster** (Devon) and her sister organised a quiz for **The Cullumpton Blind Club** and another for **Sampford Peverell Garden Club** and raised £50. **Debra Thaine** (Essex) and her colleagues at **The Learning Centre** (TLC Romford) Ltd raised £100 in lieu of giving and receiving Christmas cards. **Janine Fanshawe** (Wiltshire) and **The St Andrews Ladies Evening Group** nominated us as their Charity of the Year and raised £400.60. **Tyldesley Veterinary Centre** (Manchester) raised



Mika Recruitment and Consultant Ltd

£40.47 from their Christmas raffle. **Christine Lawn** (West Yorkshire) and everyone at **The Lupset Park Group** raised a superb £595 throughout the year. **Michael O'Connor** and **Karen Bailey** from **Mika Recruitment and Consulting Ltd** raised a brilliant £519.50 from their placements and their St Peter's School reunion. **Jacqui Payne** (Herefordshire) of "Pink Welly Walkers" raised £100 from a 6 mile Open Water Swim in the River Dart - gosh, that's so brave! **Nigel Sampson** (Suffolk) held a quiz night at The New



Helen Roke from M&S and Kim

Wellington and raised £225.25. **Trish**, one of our volunteers, recommended us and we were chosen as their monthly charity. **Joyce Lee** and **St Just Methodist Church and Fellowship** (Cornwall) raised £33. **Martin Boatfield** (Kent) raised £200 at Linda's bazaars. **Jeanne Thomas** (Pembrokeshire) had a get together in memory of her dear little Poppy. It was a happy occasion and she raised £250 for us. **Mel Alderton** (Hertfordshire) held a delicious cake and bake sale at work to raise £115.88 and **Ayesha Cundy** (Norfolk) raised £60 from her scrummy bake sale at her school. **Claire Simpson**



Mike, Maggie, Tim and Pippa at Findon Village Dog Show

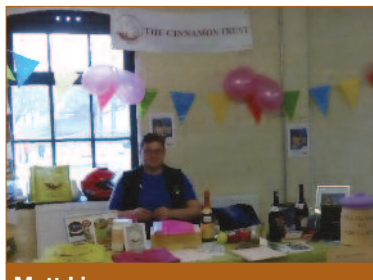
(Derbyshire) and her team at work had a dress down day and raised £110.25. **Louise Matlock** (London) raised £320 from the sale of her fabulous Christmas crackers. **Marks and Spencer** (Hayle) chose us as their Charity of the Year 2015 and the staff raised a wonderful £540.61. **Margaret Armstrong** (Essex) and her Jack Russell **Murphy** sold her lovely hand-made fairisle gloves to raise £135. **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) held a bric-a-brac stall in Aylsham and raised £137.40. **Carlyon Sports and Social Club** (Devon) raised £84.95 from their 'dress

down' day. **Chris Hardy** (Derbyshire) raised £50 from his companion dog show. **Lynda Mesh** (East Sussex) raised £40 from a spot of "internal betting" on the result of University Challenge - ingenious! **Maggie Martin** (West Sussex) with help from **Ruth Touhey, Jan Churchfield, Geoff** and **Shirley Weston, John Martin, Inge-Lise Newnham, Sue Flynn, Lorna Bolger, Valerie Conway, Mike Solomons, Angie Carter, Judith** and **Morton Davies** and **Ann Ferris**, raised a fantastic £660 from various sales, talks and the Findon Village Dog Show. **Colette Bristow** (Kent) of **Your Good Health** raised £40 in the shop. **Diane Richards**,

June Banwell and **Linda Massingham** (Norfolk) raised £100 at their monthly quiz night. **Mickey Downing** (Cornwall) raised £27 from the sale of bags. **Margaret Pengelly** (Cornwall) raised £49.25 at her coffee evening. **Hilary Bubb** and everyone at **Hereford Ringcraft Club** raised £72.58, we are their Charity Of The Year. **Claire House** from **Westfield Veterinary Centre** (Somerset) raised a brilliant £200 when she completed the Bath half-marathon - well done! And a huge well done to **George Spurway** (Somerset) who, with his dog **JayJay** and friends, raised £490 on a 10 mile sponsored walk. **Ingrid Linney** (Staffordshire) and husband **Matt** raised £80 from their stall at Middleport Pottery Event. **Christine Valters** (Wiltshire) and everyone at **The Swindon Branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship** chose us as their Charity Of The Year and raised £155. A team of vets and nurses from **Spinney Lodge Veterinary Hospital** (Northamptonshire) took on the Tough Mudder challenge, 13 miles and 25 brutal obstacles, to raise an amazing £648.01. **Anna Grainger** (Cheshire) ran The Chester half-marathon, her very first half marathon, and raised £65 - well done! **Gemma Prophet** (Oxfordshire) raised a stunning £1,500 from a charity ball she organised. **Clare Hindley** (Hampshire) and her husband joined everyone at **Andover and District Dog Training Society** who raised £284 throughout the year. This is lovely - **Kelly Richards** and **The South Downs Singers Community Choir** performed a concert and raised £370. **Gary Allison** (North Yorkshire) and all at **Harrogate Road Safety Dog Training Club** raised £200. **Christine Derham** (Suffolk) raised £55 from the sale of her gorgeous peacock feathers. **Jo Findlay** (Dorset) raised £15 from the sale of tomato



George Spurway, JayJay and friends



Matt Linney



Christine Valters



Anna Grainger



Spinney Lodge Veterinary Hospital

seedlings at work. **Stephanie Jones** (North Somerset) raised £56 from her yummy cake sale. **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) raised £89.55 at a boot sale fair. **Ann Davies** (Norfolk) raised £30 from the sale of her plants. **Blue Insurance** (Cardiff) nominated us as their Charity of the Year and raised £268. **The Soroptimist International of Rhyl and District** raised £250. **Vicki Holden** (Lancashire) has been busy, she held a pub quiz, sold biscuits and then completed the Three Peaks Challenge to raise a fabulous £1,086 - you're a star! **Sylvia Halley** (Buckinghamshire) and her craft group hosted a garden party to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday and raised £500 - fabulous! **Dogsbodys and St Columb Pet Supplies** (Cornwall) raised £75 from the sale of Dick Twinney prints. **Carol Payne** and **Lynn Hopkins** (Norfolk) sold tea and cakes at a friend's open day and raised £150 which included a donation in lieu of payment to a friend who



Alex Hinchliffe

made a garden tower planter for strawberries! **Ken Hornett** (Essex) and everyone at **All Saint's Church, Gt Braxted** held a Pets' Service and raised £100. **Friends of Devonport Park** held their annual Fun Dog Show and raised £25. **Cromwell Vets** (Cambridgeshire) raised £100. **Jan McLean** (Hampshire) raised £25 at a car boot sale. **Cecil Boorman** and everyone at **St Eanswythe Conclave Masonic Ladies** (Kent) raised £75 from their raffle. **Linda Connell** at **Albany Pet Stop** (London) raised £35. **Alex Hinchliffe** (Greater Manchester) ran the Manchester 10k and raised £365 - brilliant! **Jacqueline**

Jinks (Staffordshire) raised £190 in lieu of gifts for her 70th birthday. **387 Veterinary Centre** (Staffordshire) sold collar and lead sets donated by client **Jayne Hayward** and raised a wonderful £250. A poignant one - **Abigail Canham** and **Daniel Simpson** (Kent) raised £1,070 from an exhibition of their late Mother's art work, in appreciation of the help we gave their mum and her beloved dog Ollie, who is now in lifelong foster. Pupils at



Milla Scott-Buller

Woodchurch High School (Merseyside) held various fundraising events throughout the year and raised £125 which is just fantastic! **Carnon Downs Surgery** (Cornwall) chose us as their Charity Of The Year and raised an amazing £1,213.85! **Karen Wildsmith** (Norfolk) bless her, climbed Mount Snowdon and raised £15. This one is fabulous - **Milla Scott-Buller** (Dorset) participated in 'Victorian Week' and raised £70 from her homemade cake stall, eating food from the Victorian era and giving up her TV and iPad! Well done Milla! **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £125 from various events. **Tracey Rowe** and **students at St Piran's School** (Cornwall) held an 'own clothes' day and a refreshments stall on Sports Day and raised £160 - special one that.

Sharon Evans (Bristol) was brave - she undertook a 30 day Bikram yoga challenge, no mean feat, - she succeeded and raised £185 - excellent! **Andrea**

Robinson's (Cornwall) street party to celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday raised £288.

Eileen Hooper (Devon) and daughter, **Anthea Fletcher**, raised £70 in appreciation of the volunteer dog walking help we give her mum and her dog Lucky. **Elisabeth Aubury** (Worcestershire) raised £45 from her plant stall at her 'Open Gardens' event.

Sandra Davies led two walks during the Isle Of Wight Walking Festival and raised £105. **Karren Roberts** runs the **3rd Clydach Brownies** group in Swansea, and following a visit by Lotty, a CT dog, they raised £5.84 - oh bless! **Lesley Crook** (Buckinghamshire) and everyone at **Stonewater** held a dress down day and raised £41. **Glynnis Robertson** (Cornwall) and the **Delabole Community Choir** held a cream tea with musical entertainment and raised £180 - perfect! **Dionne Powell** (Essex) and all the residents of **Harts House Nursing Home** raised £100. **Kate Waldock** (Surrey) raised £100 from her stall at Shalford Village fete. **Patricia Hopkins** (Gloucestershire) raised £44.28 from her stall at Cheltenham Animal Shelter Open Day. **Jean Noon** (West Midlands) from **British Leyland Camping and Caravan Association** sent £50 from their fun rally. Students at **Pool Academy** (Cornwall) raised £35.02. **Madeline Mills** (West Sussex) raised £12.15 from her stall at Copthorne Carnival. **Anita Enefer** (Dorset) ran a stall at Braemore House with the **Poole Classic Car Club** and raised £85.21. **John Parry** (Worcestershire) sold second-hand books to raise £18. **Susan Hill** (Lancashire) raised £225 in lieu of presents for her 50th birthday and **Ann Canfer** (West Sussex) raised £90 in lieu of presents for her 70th birthday. Ann also raised £30 from her stall. **Mrs L Ince** (Kent) and her dogs carried out a display at Eridge Horse Trials for the fun dog show by Collie Wobbles and raised £100. **Liz Penter** (Worcestershire) celebrated a special birthday and raised £50 in lieu of presents. **Colin** and **Heather Stepney** (Dorset) raised £135



3rd Clydach Brownies

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Colin and Heather Stepney



Pauline Grimes, Caroline Hendra & Stephanie Guy



Sassy and her mum, Margaret Reese at Manston and District show



CHeWs Dog Training Club - Hamish and his raffle

at their lovely garden party. **Maureen Mason** (Birmingham) held a coffee morning to raise £100. The congregation of **The Anglican Parish of St Wenappa, Gwennap** (Cornwall) held coffee mornings throughout the year to raise a magnificent £560. **Caroline Hendra** (Lancashire) raised £55 from her stall at the Animals In Need Fun Dog Show. **Darryn Allen** (Lincolnshire) has been growing his beard since November 2015 and had it shaved off at the East Anglian Whippet Club Championship Show in July, he raised a staggering £283.04! Well done Darryn! **Sticker Dog Training Club** (Cornwall) raised £100 from a raffle and tombola. **Canine Capers Dog Obedience Club** (Somerset) raised £85 from a raffle and in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Malmesbury and District Dog Training Club** raised £100. **Brook Dog Training Club** (East Sussex) raised £180 from a raffle. **Fleet and District DTS** have been really busy! They raised £268.74 from raffles, quiz nights and Christmas party auctions. **Severn and Avon Working Gundog Club** raised £150. **Exeter and County Canine Society** raised £80 from their Stakes Classes in January and September. **Swan School of Dog Training** (Buckinghamshire) raised £50 from a raffle. **Manston and District K9 Society** (Dover) raised £200 from the Valentines Dog Show. **Downland Agility** (East Sussex) raised £125. **Southampton and District Canine Association** raised £64.50 from a sponsored stakes class. **The UK Corgi Club** (Cheshire) raised £723 from their calendar competition - fantastic! **Sarah Brown** (London) and all the members at **CHeWs Dog Training** raised £422 at their Christmas party and dedicated this to one of their instructors, **Joyce Dobson**, who sadly passed away in September 2015. **The Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain** (Lancashire) sent £75. **Broadland Dog Training Club** (Norfolk) raised £250. **Good Companion Dog Training Club** (Prestatyn) held an Easter raffle and raised £170. **Whitminster Canine Activity Training Club** (Gloucestershire) gave £100 at Crufts. **Marlow Dog Training Club** (Buckinghamshire) chose us as one of their charities for the year. They raised £350 from their activities, which includes a proportion of their training fees. **The British Gordon Setter Club** (Staffordshire) raised £100. **The Hampshire Rally** is a group of dog

obedience clubs throughout Hampshire who get together for a day of competitive fun and fund raising each year and they raised £375 for us - fantastic! **Bridport Dog Training Society** raised £75. **The English Shetland Sheepdog Club - Chilterns Branch** - held a charity auction and raised £57.55. **Windsor Gundog Society** held a raffle at their open show and raised £80. **Lowestoft Dog Training Society** raised £100. **Bedfordshire Allbreeds Training Society** raised £150 from their Open Agility Show. **Welsh Corgi Rescue Service** (Kent) raised a stonking £2,000! **Andover and District Dog Training Society** raised £284. **Wickford, Basildon and District Canine Society** held their annual dog show, and their 'Best In Show' judge, **Mr Terry Medlow**, nominated us to benefit from his fee. **Bolognese Dog Club UK** (Somerset) raised £150.86 from their successful Companion show. **The Chertsey and District Canine Society** (Berkshire) raised £60. **The Tibetan Spaniel Association** (Norfolk) held a raffle to raise £154. **Cheltenham and District Dog Training Club** raised £250 from raffles during their winter league matches and at their AGM. **Wellow Agility Club** (Hampshire) raised £464.39 from bringing in celebratory cakes for their competition successes and from the sale of their older agility club equipment. **Avon Working Trials Training Society** raised a fantastic £597.11 through their charity pots and various events held by the club. **Ruff Diamonds** (Lincolnshire) raised £120 at their annual family dog show. **Iver Dog Training Club** (Buckinghamshire) raised a brilliant £500. **Southdown Agility Club** (Hampshire) raised £100 from last year's show, their Christmas party and collections during the year! **Snoopy Dog Club** (Hertfordshire) raised a superb £300.



Spectacular, amazing, ingenious, brave, tried and tested; long hours of planning, training, cooking, gardening and more. I will never cease to be profoundly moved by all your efforts to so successfully raise funds for us - thank you seems inadequate but it is heartfelt and it means the world to all our Cinnamon Pets.



Volunteer View

Our first view is from **Joy Hale** in Suffolk:

"I met Rex and his owner Russell in August 2015, and since then Rex has acquired a small fan club in our local area. On our daily walks he likes to call in and give an enthusiastic hello to all his new friends along the way. Firstly, there's the pet shop, of course, with all the tempting smells; next stop is to check if Sylvia, his other CT walker, is home; sometimes he likes to swing by the vet surgery and give the nurses a kiss. He has forgiven them for the op he had in Feb. The Trust recommended he be castrated and he is a much calmer boy now. After an hour's



walk, we usually call in to see my elderly mother. She doesn't have a pet now, so for her to see Rex playing ball in the garden and giving him a cuddle helps fill the space of not having an animal of her own. Then it's time to head home to Russell and let him know where Rex has been and who he has met that day. Russell is very grateful for the support he gets from The Trust, and the peace of mind that his best friend and companion, Rex, will be cared for if needed. Walking and spending time with Rex has taught me much about dogs and introduced me

to new friends. Rex is a most affectionate loveable little dog and brings joy to everyone he meets.”

..... and **Russell** tells us a little more about Rex ...

“Rex didn't have a very good start in life; his mother died when he was a few days old and just a little parcel of fur. I had to feed him on my knee with milk from a syringe. I found he liked warm weak tea! To my relief he gradually got better. This was nine years ago and he has grown into a lovable dog. He likes his walks and can run very fast. My mate used to take Rex out and race with him on his bike around the playing field - Rex always won!

Rex is very affectionate to me and has to have his cuddles. When I am unwell, his eyes are never away from me. He sleeps on his bed beside me, and at the same time every morning he jumps up on my bed to have a cuddle. He is very intelligent and looks at the door when anyone is due to see me.

I am now retired and live in Framlingham where The Cinnamon Trust walkers, Joy and Sylvia, help me to look after Rex. He goes out walking every day at about 9.00 am, and starts looking out of the window to watch for Joy coming. He always waits for her to arrive before eating his breakfast! This year I was admitted into hospital for two weeks. Knowing Rex was being fostered by Sylvia gave me peace of mind that he was happy and well cared for. Rex becomes anxious when left on his own, so whenever possible the walkers arrange to take Rex out and into their home until I get back. I am so grateful for the support I get from The Trust. The phone calls I receive from them to check on how Rex and I are getting along are especially reassuring.

Rex is the best dog I have ever had and if it was not for the help I get from The Cinnamon Trust, it would not be possible for me to give him the life he deserves.”

This is from **Lynn Hopkins** and **Carol Payne** in Norfolk:

"Lynn and I have been volunteers with The Trust for several years. We used to work in the NHS, in the community with vulnerable older people and began to fully appreciate the importance and benefits of pets to people. As we have 3 dogs and 2 cats between us we shared a common interest and so this is our way of helping to support older people and pets.

We were contacted by The Trust approximately a year ago. They asked if we could help Dennis by walking Bart. Initially we thought we could share the walks and take Bart out twice a week. However, we soon discovered that Bart is a really nice calm little dog and decided that we would introduce our dogs to Bart. So now we usually take one of the three to walk with him. They have all got to know each other over time. Bart is particularly fond of Bobbie our Cairn Terrier. They make a great walking pair and look for each other at the start of the walks to say hello.



Dennis Heathcote and Bart with volunteers Carol, Lynn, Dennis, Kent and Ann

As a result of getting to know Bart and Dennis we decided to offer to take Bart if ever Dennis needed someone to look after Bart at short notice. We also agreed with Dennis that we would offer Bart a home if Dennis could no longer look after him.

Bart has been to visit our home and as all our dogs know him that has been quite successful. We did notice that Bart isn't used to our slippery floors so we had to get lots of rugs to help him have confidence to move around.

Dennis is quite an amazing man, he has had a very interesting life and now works hard at making sure he is safe at home and well supported by people.

He takes an active interest in our lives and welcomes family and friends who visit us. He was so pleased to entertain Lynn's family from Canada this year and enjoyed sharing boxing tips with the lads!!

He really appreciates what we and the other Cinnamon Trust volunteers do to support him and Bart and has got us all to meet each other, hence the photo!

We continue to enjoy our voluntary work, a great way to support people and their pets!"

And **Dennis** tells us more about his volunteers and Bart, of course!

"The Cinnamon Trust has transformed my life!

My dog, Bart, is a ten year old Blenheim Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and he is a miracle dog! He has survived a car accident after being hit on my local by-pass and also has survived a vicious attack by a muzzled greyhound. Despite these events he remains a very calm and easy going dog and loves everyone, human and other dogs alike!

I can't safely walk Bart anymore so I contacted The Cinnamon Trust for help. Carol and Lynn are the first dog walkers The Trust supplied. Carol and Lynn have both worked with people in the NHS and Lynn has a background as a "dog whisperer". They both like to support people and their pets at home. They manage to walk Bart twice a week. How good is this for a man who is in the twilight of his life!

The Trust then put me in touch with Ann who has been a volunteer for quite some time. Ann used to volunteer with the Red Cross "Home from Hospital Scheme" and through this found out about Pets as Therapy and The Cinnamon Trust. Ann comes to walk Bart once a week for me. Ann wouldn't agree, but I think she is a lovely lady and becoming a good friend.

My most recent dog walker supplied through The Trust is Kent a 16 (nearly 17) year old college student. Kent wants to train as a vet and beside studying hard at college he needed to have some relevant work experience. He helps with "Riding for the Disabled" and then found out about The Cinnamon Trust so registered as a volunteer. As I got to know Kent I discovered we have a common interest in boxing. As an ex-boxing champion myself, I offered to help train Kent. I no longer drive so my garage is converted into a mini gym with a heavy punch bag, cross trainer and exercise mat. I coach Kent and then he takes Bart out for his walk once a week. Kent is a remarkable young man, he hopes that after university he could take some time in developing countries to practice his newly acquired skills.

My dog walkers make such a difference to my life and to Bart's quality of life. So you can see how The Cinnamon Trust has changed my life! THANK YOU CINNAMON TRUST!!"



From Devon, **Dawn Fallon** writes:

"In June 2014 I lost my dog to an illness (Sammy, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) and due to increasing work commitments I decided not to have another dog. However when I saw in my local paper a request from The Cinnamon Trust for

people to help walk other peoples dogs
- even if it was only for one hour a week
- I knew I could spare one hour a week
and thought this was something I would
love to do, so I contacted them and after
all the necessary checks, I was
accepted.

I started walking Pip - a Yorkshire Terrier
- in August 2015. He's a great little
walker considering he's such a tiny dog
- his four tinsy legs can go four times
faster than my two long legs! I have a
job to keep up with him at times. He
occasionally likes to sniff the odd plant and cock his leg, but in between he gets a
real move on at a very fast pace!! I really enjoy this because it's good exercise for
me to have a good fast pace walk.



Dawn, Pip and Christine

Even though Pip is a small dog he is big on attitude and if he sees another dog
out on our walks - no matter how big the other dog might be - he is very protective
of me and will growl and strain at his leash to chase the other dog away, so I have
to keep him on a tight lead when there are other dogs about!

He has the cutest face, and when we are out walking I often call his name - he
stops in his tracks, looks up at me, and I give him a stroke and tell him what a
good boy he is.

Our favourite walk is up to St Mary's Park and the photo shows us on a very windy
day in May!

Although I can only manage one hour a week it is very rewarding and it helps Pip's
owner a lot for him to have a good long walk - apparently he sleeps for about three
hours once he gets back!"



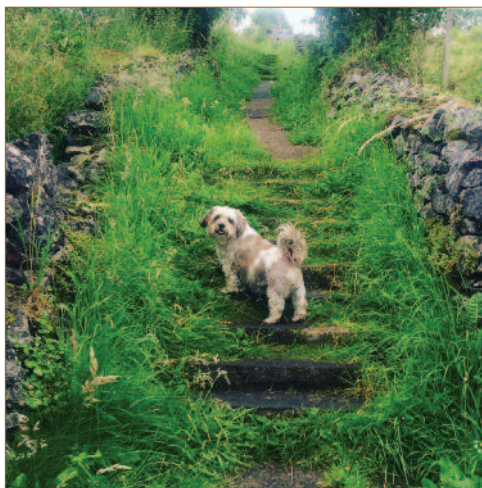
Christine tells us more.....

"Three years ago I lost my wonderful husband "Bryan" after 56 years of marriage.
I was completely devastated. My house was silent, no noise, and no laughter and
above all "Bryan's wonderful laugh". My son and daughter said I needed a bit of
noise to break up the silence. After much thought I decided to start looking for a
rescue "Yorkie", then behold after a few days along came "Pip" we took to each
other straight away.

The house started to come alive, I then realised although I had a biggish garden, and I would be limited in taking Pip for long walks. I manage taking him out once or twice a day around the block but I do have mobility problems. My neighbour suggested I write to you and ask for a volunteer who could help me give Pip longer walks. I have been so grateful for the help you have given me Dawn loves Pip and he enjoys his walks with her but all the volunteers think the world of him. They are very special ladies who I trust so much, your Cinnamon Trust helped me knowing he is in safe hands. Thank you so much for the wonderful help you have given me and "Pip".



Gina Meyer in Derbyshire says:



"Since moving to the beautiful Derbyshire countryside from London last year I've been doing my best to take advantage of the spectacular Peak District walks that are now on my doorstep. On one of my rambles in the middle of nowhere it struck me that this would perhaps be even more fun with some company and being generally quite antisocial, my favourite type of walking company would be a dog.

I've owned several dogs since being a child but could never do so in London for many reasons. And about five years ago

I found myself adopted by a little rescue cat, whom we named Monkey, because, as anyone whose met her can attest, she's very, very cheeky and has her little nose in anything and everything we do. Monkey has made it very clear that she will stand for no other animals being in her house or territory. So a dog of my own is sadly out of the question.

I'd known of The Cinnamon Trust for several years, where from, I'm not too sure but I'd certainly told members, volunteers and my colleagues of the wonderful work they do. Now I'm in the countryside and taking these long walks anyway, it struck me that I might as well put my money where my mouth was and see if I could be of any assistance.

I began by looking up volunteering opportunities on their website and was surprised to find that in Matlock, where I'm based, a walker was urgently required. I called the phone number and quoted the reference and was told "yes, we've

been looking for someone in Matlock for some time now". I was asked to complete the application form and was told my application would be processed post haste. Indeed I think it was as less than a week later that I got the Welcome Pack and Volunteering Handbook and my ID badge.

I then got a phone call from the Volunteering Department with my new assignment. I would be walking a dog named Paddy for a local older lady who suffered from dementia and had some mobility issues. The lady had a close friend who helped with cleaning, shopping and walking Paddy and needed an extra hand here and there.

I arranged to go and meet them all one Sunday afternoon and to be very honest at this stage I was somewhat scared, I had learned that Paddy was a Shih Tzu cross and this just filled me with dread. You see the dogs I've owned in the past have all been Alsations, Rottweilers or crosses of the above, big powerful dogs but with lovely, often goofy, temperaments and here I was about to go and meet a Shih Tzu, they're those little yappy things that jump up and nip you aren't they? Yes, I get the irony, I go all smoochy eyed for a Rottie but put me near a Chihuahua and I'll cower in a corner. Still I persevered.

I knocked on the door and was greeted by endless excited barking. The door was opened and I was invited in to be ambushed by a very excited little brown and white ball of fluff with big brown eyes and comically floppy ears. Paddy immediately insisted on a belly rub and before I could take my shoes off I knew we'd be firm friends.

The next week I went back, armed with my heavy duty walking boots, jacket and a hat. Paddy was ready at the door with his extendable lead on and, with a handful of poop bags in my pocket, away we went. I was a little nervous at first and didn't know the area (a ten minute drive from my house) too well so Paddy led the way. Up a steep hill we climbed, passing three young children, who shouted "Hi Paddy!" and received a happy bark in response. And up we kept going, which is often the way in the Peak District. Soon we'd left all the house and traces of civilisation behind and Paddy led us through gates and over turnstiles into huge empty fields overlooking miles of rolling hills and green landscapes. It was beautiful, stunning in fact and it was lovely to have someone to share it with. After a couple of hours I returned Paddy home and told his owner "thank you so much, Paddy took me for a lovely walk, I really enjoyed it!".

I've been back every week since, sometimes two or three times a week and have enjoyed my walks with Paddy immensely. I'm outside in the beautiful Peak District, I'm walking and keeping my fitness levels up (hopefully), I have some great and entertaining company and (I like to think) I'm helping someone whilst I'm at it. I can't recommend it enough.

Yesterday I dropped Paddy back home and I told his owner "He's funny when he's out with me you know, he doesn't want any love or affection, he knows he gets that at home. It's as though he says to me "Come on, I don't want your strokes or cuddles, you're here to walk me, get on with it!" she laughs and says "Oh, but he's always so happy when he comes home". That's nice, he's happy, she's happy and I'm happy too."



And this from **Peter Richardson** in Devon.



"My name is Peter Richardson, I am 72 this year and live in Tiverton. I have had dogs all my life, but the last one "Sam" was closer to me and my wife than any other. He was very large and trained for security, but was also completely trustworthy and adored babies and puppies. We lost him a few years ago, but for a variety of reasons have not felt able to replace him.

I am a very doggy person and need some contact, and I most definitely need the exercise, so when some friends told me about Cinnamon Trust a few years ago, I volunteered right away.

I currently walk two small dogs for a lovely man called Trevor. He is about my age but insists he is only 19 as his birthday is 29th of February. I met him in difficult circumstances as his wife was terminally ill and he lost her within two weeks. This was quite difficult as the dogs picked up on his grief and missed their mistress and had to be encouraged to leave home at first and did not stray too far from the house.

Within a short while they had regained their enthusiasm for walks. I now take them out twice a week and another volunteer walks them at weekends. Trevor who is very restricted due to Parkinsons disease sometimes manages to take them for short walks to the corner of his turning.

The two dogs are Jasper who is a Bichon Frise and Lilly who is a Shih Tzu both are in late middle age, but greet me enthusiastically when I arrive to walk them. They are ready and waiting as soon as they hear my car one hundred yards away, I think it took all of a month for them to identify it.

They are now very confident again and the only time I had a problem was when Trevor had a visitor who had her dog with her. They were not keen to walk, I don't

think they trusted him with another pooch. I have two young grandchildren who love dogs, so when they visit they always come with me to help as you can see from the photo, the dogs love them as well. Lilly is on the left and Jasper on the right.”



Colin Matthews in Kent puts it in a nutshell!

“My first dog walk!

Case history

Vivienne and Inky

All pre- arranged day time and exchange of names.

The day arrives a Monday morning blue November sky 14 c dry. I knock on the door and greeted not by Vivienne but an excited 3 year old black labradoodle. It was love at first sight never been licked so much in 60 seconds even my partner could not compete with that!!



I combined the first 15 minutes between the owner and Inky and all 3 of us felt like we had known each other for years! We found so much common ground during our chat that it became a bit spooky but at the same time bonding.

Time to take Inky out and I was in my old territory when I was a 10 year old, 48 years ago! I had a Welsh corgi called Tuffy. We bonded for 11 years and my best mate. In the end due to ill health I had to put him down. Never cried so much and never had or able to have a dog since.

Cinnamon Trust has given me the chance to rekindle into the dog world. More spooky though is when I retire to the coast we want a labradoodle. So not only am I back to my childhood walks but volunteer walking Inky a labradoodle!! Well, did Inky and I have a great time as we walked, ran and talked all down my memory lanes.

When we got back we were worn out but happy and much to tell the owner.

Without hesitation we agreed Monday and Thursdays for walks and all 3 of us left each other happy but knowing not an end but a beginning of what is hoped a long bonding friendship.

Thank you Cinnamon Trust.”

A very touching tribute now from **Jackie Cameron** in London

“A Friend Like Ben

Three years ago I developed a serious anxiety disorder which left me almost housebound. At my lowest point I couldn't get out of bed and, unable to work and with no dependents, I felt I had no purpose in life. Then one day in my local library I saw an advert for The Cinnamon Trust. I loved the fact that this Charity enabled the elderly and housebound to keep pets, as animals make such a difference to overall wellbeing. This was perfect for me and, not long after I signed up as a volunteer, I was introduced to a Jack Russell named Ben.

And what a character he was. A senior dog, Ben enjoyed routine and was quite set in his ways. Over time I got to know his little quirks and we developed our own routine. He became accustomed to his drink at the local park café, and his mid-walk snack, to the point that he would stop and look up at me licking his lips, at precisely the moment he expected the treats to come out. I always ensured I bought gourmet dog treats, until, one day in a rush, I ran into a budget-buy shop and grabbed the first thing I saw. At snack time I offered one to Ben, who spat it out and looked up at me disgustedly. Lesson learned - he only got the best from then on!

One day it occurred to me that, part blind and part deaf, Ben had probably never had a proper run in a long time. I began jogging slowly with him and within a few weeks he was galloping along, which he enjoyed immensely. His deafness was comical and, shall we say, selective. I chatted away to him all the way round the park, while he completely ignored me; however he always heard the doorbell when I came to collect him, and the rustling of the bag as his treats emerged from my pocket. Initially timid with other dogs, I encouraged him to interact as much as possible and it wasn't long before his confidence increased and he went from showing interest, to active engagement and enthusiastic tail-wagging, to being quite feisty with the ladies!

In the three years I walked him Ben seemed to become younger and younger. It was a joy to see the excitement and anticipation when I picked him up, and the sheer enjoyment of his walks. “I want some of what he's got”, his owner Mike laughed one day as he barked with delight, leaping and bouncing down the hall upon my arrival.

Ben adopted a number of roles within the community. One day a young couple approached me and asked if their 6-year-old daughter could pat him, as she was scared of dogs. Ben looked so gentle they thought he might help her get over it. I also had a dog owner approach me with his own terrified dog, requesting a sniff and some gentle interaction. In winter Ben was the talk of Tooting with his

fashionable knitted jumper, and he has been the star of dozens of teenage selfies!

Having a purpose in life and a doggy friend to depend on me speeded up my recovery. On the days I didn't want to get out of bed I only had to imagine Ben waiting expectantly for me to arrive, and that was motivation enough. Volunteering certainly is as beneficial to those who deliver as to those who receive. The joy he brought Mike was lovely to see, and I am so glad that giving up just a little of my time enabled someone who wouldn't otherwise be able to have a pet to have such a wonderful companion.

Sadly, Ben became ill and the difficult decision was made to have him put to sleep. I am devastated and have cried many tears over him. He always winked me a cheeky goodbye when I took him home and I am completely heartbroken that I didn't know our last walk would be the end. He has been such a huge part of my life. But at 17 years old he had a good innings, as they say. I can take some comfort in knowing that the happy times I spent with him enriched his life, and I will always remember him as the Jack Russell who saved mine."



David and **Christine Walsh** in Dorset write:

"When our son Joe and his new wife Katherine told us that they had become volunteers for a charity called 'The Cinnamon Trust' we were intrigued! They explained that they had heard of the charity through Katherine's Auntie Mary who had suffered a period of ill health and had been lucky enough to find a 'Trust' volunteer to walk her little dog Daisy during this time. They would be walking a male Boxer called Marley twice a week for a lady who had mobility issues.



Pebbles and BamBam

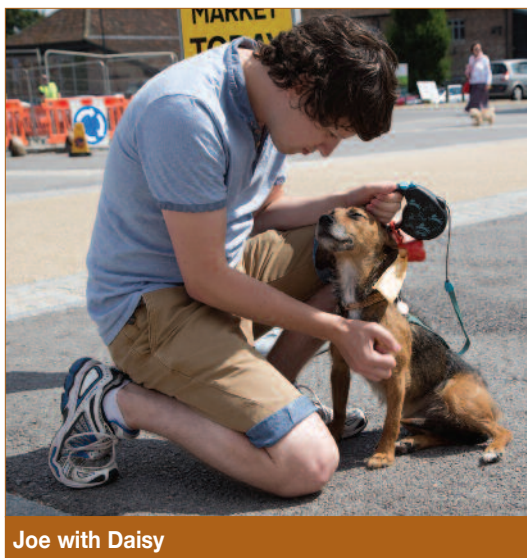
Sounds like a plan we thought - what better way to gain exercise, maybe lose a few pounds and do something for someone else all in one go.

Three weeks after we were officially provided with our Cinnamon Trust badges, our call came - The Trust had received a request from Mrs Pam Clarke who had broken her leg very badly and was unable to walk her 2 male Maltese Terriers called Pebbles and BamBam. What luck - 2 dogs - we wouldn't even have to squabble over who held the lead!

We arranged to meet 'the boys' as we now call them and duly arranged an appointment with Mrs Clarke. Two bundles of white fluff barrel-rolled into us and it was love at first sight!

The first few outings were short as they had not been walked for some time but gradually the time increased. We followed a similar route around Poundbury on each walk (which was also the route which Mrs Clarke had taken) so that we could get to know other doggie walkers within the area. We quickly discovered that BamBam and Pebbles were quite the celebrities- everyone who we met knew them by name and asked after Mrs Clarke's health. Becoming part of this 'doggie community' was absolutely fantastic and the boys were delighted to meet all their old doggie friends, particularly the ladies! On occasions when Mrs Clarke had to go into hospital as part of her road to recovery, we had them with us and they took on another role - 'dogs who came into work'! Their absolute delight in welcoming visitors at the door and the reaction of these visitors to them was a sight to behold -it was amazing to see how a dog could change a person's mood just by the simple doggie greeting of a wagging tail!

We have now been walking the boys for 2 years for four times a week and continue to enjoy every moment. The word 'trust' can mean so many things but for us, not only do we feel honoured that Pam has put her trust in us to look after her beloved boys but that the boys trust us to look after them on our journeys around Poundbury. I can honestly say that the exercise is great but the most important gain has been the friendship of Pam and the other walkers along the way. Just one thing remains a mystery - why DO they love to 'sprinkle' the daffodils so much?!



Joe with Daisy

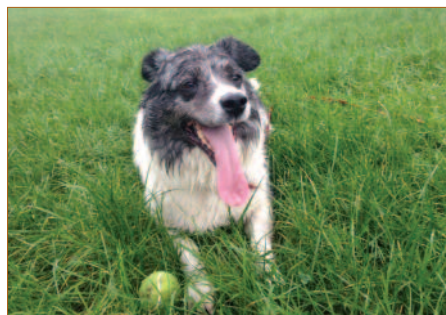
As for the couple who started all of this....

Sadly, Auntie Mary passed away in June 2014 so Joe and Katherine decided to adopt Daisy, a timid little dog they worried they may find difficult to settle especially as she was terrified of men. As you can see from the picture, there was one little dog who wasn't told - she is absolutely and utterly devoted to her new owners.... and the feelings are reciprocated!"



Becky Jones in Glamorgan sends this lovely view....

“Beauty is one of a long line of faithful doggie companions for Tom and Eira. Shortly after she was rehomed Tom was in hospital and then Eira was admitted to hospital too. Tom was worried about Beauty and talked to a nurse about it who suggested Tom contact The Cinnamon Trust. The Trust came to the rescue. Tom, Eira and Beauty have not looked back since; that was 7 years ago.



In Nov 15 I was reading about how important a canine companion can be to an elderly person, how he/she can give that person purpose and enrich their life, I know how much our dogs mean to me. I saw poster on a hospital notice board about The Cinnamon Trust, excitedly completed the application form and waited (with baited breath) whilst my referees completed their forms. I was very impressed with the vetting procedure and excited when my acceptance letter and ID card came in the post. Shortly afterwards an e-mail was sent telling me about Beauty. I called Tom and arranged to met her. Tom told me about Beauty including how protective she was of him when he was able to take her out and how she can pull on the lead.

Beauty and I walked on several occasions near her home, I soon realised that she needed more exercise. I took her to the local beach with my partner where she met our dogs. I was still working on her recall so we started gradually, first with an extender lead then a trailer lead. Treats are not the way to Beauty's heart and we soon discovered that she is BALL focused. Beauty and I now enjoy a weekly walk at our local park where she runs after the ball, in and out of puddles and streams getting rather muddy.

I am a relatively new walker for Beauty and am getting to know her more and more. I know that Tom and Eira are very grateful to The Cinnamon Trust walkers; they often tell me about her walks with other volunteers. They are happy to see Beauty walked and pleased that one of their 'team of walkers' is able to help with vet visits too.

Unfortunately Tom has had an extended stay in hospital recently leaving Beauty at home with Eira. Beauty watches Eira all the time, she keeps her company and does not go to bed until Eira is settled. Without Beauty Eira would have been very lonely during Tom's absence. I am pleased to work with the other volunteer walkers to be able to support Tom, Eira and Beauty, it makes me feel good knowing that they can stay together.”

Suzanne Hutchinson in Shropshire writes:

“My Cinnamon Trust Friends



I met Sheila and her dog Pixie just under two years ago. Pixie is a Jack Russell/Chihuahua cross who was taken in by The Dogs Trust after being found abandoned, or possibly lost. She is approximately five years old. She is a sweet-tempered, patient little dog, though she has her fair share of terrier cheek and all the energy and bounce you would expect from anything with Jack Russell heritage. Sheila chose her as a companion dog when poor health forced her to give up her last German Shepherd - so there is quite a contrast!

Pixie's dainty Chihuahua legs and feet carry a solid Jack Russell body and keeping her

weight under control is both a necessity and a challenge, so regular exercise is crucial. She is well-served by Cinnamon Trust volunteers and is generally taken out on five or six days a week. I walk her for about an hour three times a week, perhaps a little less on a rainy day, and often a bit more when we are both enjoying the sunshine. We are very lucky in Ellesmere to be surrounded by fields, meres, canals and woodland within easy reach, and I vary the walks to keep us both interested.

As far as I am concerned these hours are Pixie's time to 'be a dog', so though we set a good pace at times, at others I wait for her to chase smell trails and follow her diversions, at least up to a point. She has the terrier trait of taking off after something with no other thought in her head. For a small dog she packs a lot of heft, and has pulled me off my feet more than once. She can do 0 - 60 from a standing start in under half a second and would in no time be through the hedge and half a mile away, so I keep her on an extendable lead. It is as good a compromise as I can manage between giving her some leeway and preventing her from disappearing. I tell her that she cannot go where I cannot follow!

Pixie has done as much for me as I have done for her. I have Fibromyalgia, a mysterious condition for which doctors have no explanation, no cure, and no reliable treatment. Amongst other things it causes aches and pains and fatigue, so you feel as though you've run a marathon after a stroll in the park. It is hard to keep exercising when it hurts and when you feel so bad afterwards, yet the only

'treatment' all the experts have agreed on in the last few years is the need to keep moving. I discovered through trial and error that the one form of exercise I could keep going with is walking, and it was one of the main reasons for becoming a Cinnamon Trust volunteer. The other was that our last cat had died, and I had promised my husband no more pets. So I have to borrow other people's pets.

When I first started walking Pixie I struggled to complete a half-hour walk, and it was hard work turning out three times a week. Two years later I am much more active every day of the week, and I have lost more than two stone in weight. The discipline of walking Pixie has had a great deal to do with this, but it was the enjoyment I gained from my hours with her that made the difference. She is such a bright, brisk little dog, and such fun to be out with - I find I have a permanent smile on my face and the lift in mood lasts a good deal longer than the walks.

The other important element is the relationship you develop with the dog's owner. Sheila and I have exchanged quite a lot of personal information over the past two years! Her willingness to give me the flexibility I need to arrange the dog-walking around other commitments when necessary means that I will be happily walking Pixie for the foreseeable future. I hope it will be for many years yet."



And this is super from **Lynne Warren** in Worcestershire:

"After the loss of my last black Labrador, just six weeks after her sister had passed away, I learnt the full heartbreak of loss and emptiness that is felt when your pets are no longer in your life.

I retired from my work, in the NHS, 18 months later when my partner and I decided that we would travel and boat for a few years before we had anymore dogs. But retirement did not come easy to me, and so missed my dogs even more.

I had learnt of The Cinnamon Trust through a couple of my housebound patients who had CT volunteers walking their beloved companions.

So as soon as I had left work I signed up straight away to become a volunteer. Becoming a walker is just perfect and fits into my life really well. It gives me the joy of being out in the countryside with the company of some lovely dogs, and gives me the freedom to just upsticks and go on my travels if, and when we want to.

Over these past four years I have had the greatest pleasure of knowing seven fabulous dogs, meeting their owners, some of whom have become friends. Being a " Labrador lady ". I couldn't believe my luck when my first dog was Holly, and

beautiful 13 year old yellow Lab. Her lady owner ,due to a Parkinson type illness, was finding it difficult to walk any distance and needed help with Holly who still loved her walks.

Even though Holly was 13, and had arthritis, this did not stop her, once off her lead, nose down to the ground in typical Lab fashion and heading for the river where she would spend the next ten minutes splashing around!

We walked three times a week, until the darling girl had to be put to sleep, at the age of 15, still enjoying her runs, if not shorter and slower, to the last.



Grady and Vienna

Grady is a working Lab, Retriever cross, Guide dog, who's owner Ed was waiting for a knee operation and therefore finding it hard to get out and about. I started walking. Grady three times a week, taking him to the Vets for his checks, and having him to stay for a couple of weeks whilst Ed was in hospital.

We are now all good friends, and Ed and I so enjoy our talks, putting the worlds to rights, when I return from our walks. This handsome boy has lots of girlfriends who just love him,

human and doggies alike!! He is such a gentleman, that if he could, I am sure that he would buy all his lady friends flowers and take them out to dinner.

We are joined one day a week, for really long hikes, by Vienna, a little pocket rocket, who is a Hearing Dog for Deaf People. It is lovely to go out with these two and watch them together, they so love each other's company. A special break from their working lives.



Mabel

Being a volunteer has shown me first hand just how special, and important, these dogs are to their owners and their lives. My latest dog is Mabel, a gentle collie who just loves being out and about chasing her ball.

She has been such a lifeline and comfort to her owner, who has been receiving long courses of cancer treatment, and unable to exercise her during this time. Mabel is such a loving companion to her Mum, during this emotional time, who without CT walkers would find it impossible to maintain the exercise needs of her

beloved dog. I am happy to say that, Mabel's mum, is progressing well and can now manage small walks again with her special girl.

Right at this moment, I have Sally, who's mum and dad are CT fosterers, staying with me whilst they are on holiday. This very remarkable little girl, wait for it, who is 19, has been staying with us for holidays these past few years. We just love having her, and have also become chums with her mum and dad.

All members, and volunteers of The Cinnamon Trust, are very aware that it could not function without the funding that comes from so many activities and shows. I have been so proud to have taken part in some of these with Janet Morgan, who must be one of The Trust's greatest and tireless fundraisers. She very often arranges lunch get togethers where we have the chance to meet up with other volunteers and compare notes, and receive useful tips.

I have had such fun, and met lots of lovely people, at stands and talks to local clubs all in the aid to raise those vital funds that keep those "special friends" with their owners.

I am so very happy to give such a small part of me that makes a very big difference to owners, and, gives me lovely doggies to share my walks!

As long as my legs keep going I shall carry on being CT walker forever!!"



Claire and **Bruce Sands** in Tyne and Wear say:

"We volunteered with The Cinnamon Trust as we would love a dog of our own but would struggle to fit one into our lifestyle.

We were initially offered a match with Gwen and her beautiful dogs Sandy and Clover which wasn't really particularly handy for home but we agreed to take it on temporarily. A better match came up later but by then we were in love!



Sandy and Clover with Claire and Bruce

Sandy, sadly, is no longer with us and since Gwen had nowhere of her own to bury her, is having her forever-sleep in our back garden where Gwen can come and visit her. She was a gentle and loving terrier with true puppy dog eyes. She was very food-motivated and would do anything for a treat! She was very well behaved and liked nothing better than to zig-zag across the path in front of us making sure she sniffed and investigated everything. Sadly her health deteriorated and she could soon only manage short walks and then none at all. We all miss her.

Clover is a gorgeous, high-maintenance Lurcher. She's absolutely beautiful but I suspect she knows it! She's very amiable until we head in a direction she has decided against and then she stops dead and puts on her wonderful "huffy face" just to let us know she disapproves! But the moment quickly passes and she goes back to her lovely self. She also treats us to a game of peek-a-boo when she thinks we need cheering up. She lags behind but then sneaks up and peers around our legs and I'd swear she's laughing when she does it. Clover is an absolute pleasure to walk and our time with her gives us so much joy.

And as for Gwen, we couldn't ask for a more lovely lady. Despite having health troubles, she's been there for us when we had some dark times of our own. It's clear she adores her dogs and it's an honour for us to be a small part of enabling her to have them."



From Norfolk, **Lesley Harbron** writes:

"I'm a volunteer in Norfolk and have been lucky to walk several dogs and meet some lovely kitties and I love every moment.



Suzie



Audrey

A few years ago I walked an adorable little Griffon called Derry until she moved to East Sussex with her Mum, Pat. Now, I walk Audrey, a sweet girl who knows her own mind on her walks - she looks at you with these big dark eyes as if begging you to walk her where she'd like to walk. Of course, I give in. She loves returning home to see her Mum, Mrs Woods, you can tell. And recently, Suzie, a cute and good natured Jack Russell, who loves to run me through the grass along a track we visit, followed by games. And a

quiet girl I miss, Tilly, a Kings Charles Cavalier, who has gone to her forever foster home. I've made some lovely friends. Pat and I exchange Christmas cards. Mrs Woods and I have a chat and Ruth spoils me with the tea service, coffee and shortbread. I recommend volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust very much and tell so many people about The Trust. Not only can you fulfil your passion of being with animals, you are helping others and make super friends. And for me personally it is helping me through my life and giving me strength so very much a two-way thing."



Tilly

We were contacted by a local agency concerning Herbie. In no time at all Herbie was in his short term home with Shirley in Taunton and following a series of operations to his eyes and lots of tender loving care from Shirley, Herbie was on the mend.

Shirley continued Herbie's aftercare including bathing his eyes and the numerous eye drops that were required and soon Herbie was recovering and becoming his cheeky self again. The search then began for a new long term fosterer for the adoring Herbie and soon he was on his way to his forever foster home in St. Agnes, Cornwall

..... and from there **Shirley Hughes** says:

"Herbie has been staying with us for nearly three weeks. We are all getting on very well including the cat - a few spats but they are settling down as I guessed they would.

Herbie is great fun to have around and both Heather and I are delighted he has come to live with us. There were inevitably a few teething problems but we are settling down into our routines. We have been on lots of walks and introduced Herbie to the beach - there are several by us. We are now able to let Herbie off the lead in our garden and he has started coming to us when we call - his hearing has been damaged as well.

Herbie is a great character, and though he's nine he's got enough mischief in him for a two year old - what a busy boy - and he has been much admired



Herbie

by our friends and fellow dog walkers. He is remarkably good in traffic on our narrow lanes - he has a very kind and generous nature.

Health wise we have taken him to our vets - we have been very diligent with the eye drops (seven times a day!) and the vet was very pleased with his eyes. He's also lost a little more weight.

We have left him several times when we've both been out and he has been as good as gold - but delighted to see us when we return.

He's a great dog and we are very much aware that we have The Cinnamon Trust and their many devoted staff and volunteers to thank for the miracle that is Herbie."



Mo Beazley in the West Midlands writes:

"I first met Harvey, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and his owner Dennis in the summer of 2013. I was already walking a chocolate Labrador twice a week so Harvey was easy to satisfy. Dogs have different characters but how lucky was I that both dogs were obedient, clever and great fun? Harvey was always really excited to see me. I tried to take him for his walks at the same time each day because dogs like routine and Dennis said Harvey would sit at the window waiting for me but only on the days that I was due!! Dennis had bought Harvey at nine weeks old and apart from spells in hospital they were never apart. I felt honoured that Dennis trusted me, as a volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust, to take Harvey for walks.

There was a nature reserve very close to Harvey's home so as I got used to the area we went for longer walks, off the lead and meeting other walkers and their dogs. Harvey was recognised by so many people and loved the contact with everyone. The bonus for me was that I got to know like-minded animal lovers and learn so much about the local wildlife. Spotting the kingfisher along the canal was a regular pastime.

As time went on Dennis's sight deteriorated and he moved into a residential centre for people with impaired vision but he was allowed to take Harvey with him. He has become quite a celebrity and is the unofficial "petting dog" at the centre. Fortunately I was still able to visit and take Harvey for walks. We discovered new areas together as well as revisiting areas that I knew from my childhood.

Unfortunately Dennis's general health deteriorated and I volunteered to short-term foster Harvey, having fostered Fizz the Labrador until a wonderful permanent home was found for her. Both dogs got on so well that they walked, ran and chased

after the same ball even though Harvey gave up after 15 metres feeling superior to Fizz as he is the elder by about ten months!! Dennis is secure in the knowledge that when the time comes, Harvey will join our family permanently and will continue to be loved and cherished.”



And this from **Emma Young** in Buckinghamshire:

“When I was first asked to take Taj in for a short-term foster, I hesitated. My brother was recovering in hospital after an emergency operation and I wasn't sure it was the right time to take a foster pet. But when I found out he was stuck at a vet's close to my brother's hospital, it felt like it was meant to be. And Taj has proven that whatever we may give him, he returns many times over. Where we have, I hope, provided security, comfort, and love, he has been my therapy: stroking him or having him curl up into my neck at night has helped me relax and get back to sleep when absorbed with worry.



Taj is a cat of advanced years, and suffers from multiple health conditions, but you'd never know it. His black coat gleams, he has the most chilled-out feline demeanour I've ever witnessed, and he looks like he's smiling when he sleeps. Even with two young children zooming past him as superheroes, the most he ever reacts is with a gentle flattening of his ears. He tolerates us with great resilience and seems happy and settled.

We have so many nicknames for him. My children call him the Nuzzle Ninja because if you put your face anywhere near his, he stretches towards it to nuzzle your nose. He's a cat with many funny habits. Perhaps because he is a Burmese, he is the exact opposite to most of the cats I had while growing up, who were fiercely independent. Like a dog, he follows me around the house, sitting quietly in the corner of whatever room I'm in, fixing me with pleading eyes that seem to say: “take a break”. When I do, he's up immediately for a cuddle, although rarely onto my lap: he prefers to sit at one side of me, laying his legs protectively on mine. He's helped me prepare many a work presentation and watched whole TV series with me - my computer bears the sign of Taj daily.

He loves warmth and chases the sun as it moves around the house. And his

routines are not to be messed with! If breakfast is not ready by 7am, he will start his intensely loud mewling (which I only wish I spoke cat to interpret) and as soon as I drop into bed, he plants himself on my tummy until lights go out, when he plops down and pads off to his padded pink bed.

Fairly early on into Taj's stay, we agreed with The Cinnamon Trust that he'd stay with us forever. And, since his owner, Pamela died, he's very much a part of our family now (living what I like to think of as his second life). Recently, at a wishing well with my two young sons, I asked them to make a wish - anything in the world! Expecting something themed along chocolate supplies for life or Transformers toys, I was surprised when my eldest wished simply that Taj could be well again. We're waiting for the miracle, but in the meantime, will continue to give him the love and care I know his owner must have done."



At first **Linda Martin** in Devon fostered **Russell** short term but this very soon became a poignant long term foster. Linda says:

"Russell was 14 yesterday so we went to visit Rosa Vanstone at Hatherleigh nursing home.

Jim, who still maintains Rosa's property in Okehampton met us in the car park and gave Russell two bags of Schmackos as a present which is so kind of him. Jim is



a good friend and visits Rosa in the home every two weeks. Rosa was thrilled to see us all. All the staff came in with titbits of ham and biscuits which the little fellow enjoyed, a real birthday treat! Despite Rosa's health not being good she takes a keen interest in everything around her and has a lovely room.

This photo was taken by a member of staff and a copy of it is now on Rosa's wall. I told Rosa I would send a

copy to you as The Cinnamon Trust was brilliant with her and Russell.

She hasn't forgotten that."

Rebecca Bassett from Aylesbury called us to request a foster for her JR x pug puppy called **Milo**. Her son Jack aged 7 has a rare form of lung cancer and with her daughter Lauren who is 13, they were all going to have to live in Addenbrooks hospital while he was having treatment. The family had not long got Milo when Jack was diagnosed.

We knew who to call, **June Murfet** a fantastic volunteer and long term fosterer of Mr Tiggs. We knew that she would not mind fostering a puppy, particularly in light of the circumstances.

Here is June's view:

"I have been keeping in touch with Becky (Jacks mum) as you know since we collected Milo but it was great to finally meet her on Saturday along with Jack and her 13 year old daughter Lauren. They have now been living at the hospital for some time, sadly they hadn't had Milo long when Jack was diagnosed with a very rare cancer.

My daughter Lyndsey and I had arranged a planned visit to Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and by special arrangement we were allowed to take him up to Jack's ward to visit. Jack is very poorly but Becky told us that he shows signs of improvement each day which is great news. Jack was so happy to see Milo, they let Milo on the bed and he seemed really happy to see Jack too. It was so lovely to reunite Milo with Jack, Becky and Lauren they have all missed him so much.

I told Jack about how Freddie (my own dog) and Mr Tiggs (Tiggy) are looking after Milo and how they really enjoy him playing with them. He likes to give their ears a good old clean and they love it. I showed Jack the photos I had taken at Milo's first birthday party, which made everyone laugh!! I explained to the family how Tiggy had come me through The Cinnamon Trust. Becca said she was so happy that they were put in touch with The Trust because they were becoming desperate and if they had not stepped in they may have had to rehome Milo. We stayed with Jack for a while but he is so fragile and tired, we thought we would give them some time alone with Milo and went off for coffee. After a short while Becca and



Freddie, Mr Tiggs and Milo

Lauren bought Milo out to us as Jack had fallen asleep, we could hear him coming as he was barking down the corridor with excitement! Becca thanked us for the visit and it was back to Freddie and Mr Tiggs for dinner.

We have been Milos 4th home whilst Jack has been having treatment, he lived with 3 other relatives at different addresses but they all found it difficult to cope, puppies are not easy! However, I have the time and he settled in with us right away, he absolutely loves our old boys so it has all turned out well, in fact he has given them a new lease of life.

Becky is expecting them to be able to go home soon, she is learning how to care for Jack at home. They live in Hatfield, literally 10 minutes' drive from my house in Hertford so I have assured them that we will foster Milo whenever needed in the future. I imagine there will be times when they may need to go back to hospital and Milo will always have a place with us."



Linda Marshall in Northants sends a great view:

"Anyone who has ever waded through a muddy field in driving rain in mid December will have wondered why they have a dog. Anyone who has stood and watched muntjac deer grazing lush fields in a glorious spring sunrise will have wondered why anyone wouldn't.

I began volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust when living in London and missing having a dog to walk. More than 10 years later and my third pairing has just come to an end.

Mr Owens lived nearby and when I met him was battling with his chemotherapy and the knowledge that it was a case of when and not if. Buster, his 6 year old terrier was his best friend and pride and joy and under strict instructions that I was entrusted with precious cargo, he began joining me and my collie Mags a few times a week.

On the mornings when Mr Owens was well enough to be up and about, we would joke that Buster wasn't all that bothered about me. Because, on opening the door, he would run straight past me and wait, often impatiently at the gate to get going. Perhaps not so much a friend, but simply a gateway to the sights and smells outside.

And then, about a year later, I had the call from the nursing teams that Mr Owens had died. I went to go and collect a rather confused and distressed little dog from the nurse who had called. He leapt from the front door step into my arms, and I

knew that of course it had been a joke. I was very important to Buster. And especially now in the moments of his own grief. I'd become part of his tribe, and he was very much in need of me.

Buster had been taken to stay with the nurse for a bit, and may have, in other circumstances been taken to the local animal shelter. For what happened next, I shall be eternally grateful to The Cinnamon Trust. A call to the out of hours line, and by 10.30am the next day, Debbie had found him a short term foster placement and was underway with finding a forever forster home. All he needed was a lift to get there.

Having a dog myself, you know what they mean to you. You wouldn't stand in a muddy field in December if they didn't. You also know what they give to you. As he was dying, Mr Owens wasn't always the happiest of men, but he was always kind to me. I'm sure because of the peace of mind that came with knowing that he had the support he needed, and trust in someone to look after his best pal. I couldn't keep Buster myself, but am glad that I also have the peace of mind that I could help him to settle after his ordeal, and to take him to a loving place where he will be well looked after. Knowing what your pets mean to you, means knowing the importance of what The Cinnamon Trust do, at times when it is really needed. It means I am all the clearer about what it means to me to be part of it, even in muddy fields in mid December.”



... and as for **Buster** and his new life with **Karon** and **Godfrey Lyne** Here's what they say:

“In May this year we had to have our wonderful Border Terrier, Tilly, put to sleep. Tilly was a Cinnamon Trust long-term foster who had lived with us for the past eight years having arrived with us when she was two. For over two years Tilly lived with diabetes and she also suffered from cataracts and bouts of pancreatitis. She was a terrifically brave little dog and she coped remarkably well with her twice-daily injections. We loved having her live with us and she had a very special relationship with our Border Terrier Benny, who is now nine. They loved playing and play-fighting.

It was a terribly sad day when we lost Tilly and it was hard to come to terms with her not being in the house. But within a week of losing Tilly we got a call from The Cinnamon Trust about another potential long-term foster dog, called Buster, whose owner had very recently died. Of course we were still grieving for Tilly and at first we thought it just seemed too soon. On the other hand Buster needed a home. Perhaps it was “meant to be”? Anyway, we arranged to meet him at his



Buster, Benny and Naomi

short-term foster home and we took Benny with us to see if the two of them would get on. Ultimately it would be Benny's decision. We met up at the house and the two dogs seemed to like each other, so we agreed to take Buster home with us.

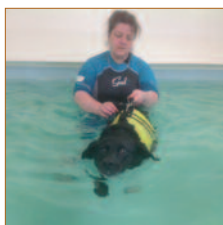
Obviously Buster had had a very traumatic experience, and when he came to us he appeared to be in shock. Also to begin with he seemed to find it hard to get used to living in a family after living with one owner. Initially he paced around the house a great deal, and he still spends a lot of time running around checking

everyone, but gradually he has been settling in and now seems much happier. Buster is a lovely dog, a Jack Russell cross aged 6. He loves going for walks and running after balls with Benny. The two dogs are developing quite a good relationship - although they have their moments, and every so often Benny finds it necessary to make it clear to the "new dog" who is boss! It is still early days but we hope that Buster will be with us for many years to come."



Now, let's catch up with a few more of our Cinnamon Pets in lifelong foster homes.

First, **Lucy Locket** in West Midlands who enjoys her hydrotherapy - **Carol** and **Paul Lynn** write:



"This is Lucy Locket who came to live with us five years ago, Cinnamon Trust told us she was approximately 6 years old. She loves her walks and playing with a ball. Unfortunately a few months ago she started limping badly, following an x-ray it was found that she has arthritis in her elbows and neck. CT have funded all of Lucy's medication and even her hydrotherapy which she has once a week. She has had five

sessions so far and as a result there is no sign of a limp now and once again is able to enjoy her walks and playtime. Thank you CT for allowing and supporting us to foster this most beautiful girl who is obviously pain free and enjoying life to the full. Also many thanks to Amanda, Lisa and Bob, Janice and Joyce her short term foster carers who allow us to go on holiday knowing that Lucy is being well looked after and loved."

JoJo in Essex has been enjoying a narrowboat holiday with **Graham** and **Carol Jackson**:

“Jojo is a 12 year old rough haired Jack Russell. We took her on as a long term foster in May 2015 after her elderly owner passed away. We had fostered her several times previously and knew her to be very well behaved.

This year we decided to take her on a narrow boat holiday. She had her own buoyancy aid which she put on when ashore near locks. When travelling on the boat we kept her secure to prevent the temptation of her jumping overboard to chase the local wild fowl! She seemed to thoroughly enjoy the whole experience. In fact, in the first 2 days her tail wagged so much we thought it would fall off.



She settled into her normal home routine straight away, but at night her bed was as far away as possible from our sleeping quarters so her loud snoring would not keep us awake at night!! There was only the occasional disruption when she barked if anyone walked past the boat on the tow path.



Locks confused her a bit at first - particularly going up. Everyone except the skipper would disappear from the boat (to operate the lock) then suddenly come into view again as the boat rose up. However she soon got used to the routine.

Fortunately she is very well house trained, so with reasonable walks before setting off in morning and after mooring in the evening she managed to cope with just the occasional pit stop ashore during the day. The canal and river were well appointed with dog friendly pubs. We only had to leave her once and the boat was on the pub moorings so it was easy to check on her. She just went to sleep (that's also what she does if we leave her in the car despite her separation anxiety).

Overall she adapted very well to the new environment and changing places. Its quite easy having a small dog in the confined space of a narrow boat. Back home now I have just taken her for a walk along our local canal, I am sure she was expecting to get on one of the boats!”

Peter and **Barbara Padbury** keep **Harry** and **Dixie** in touch with their roots. Louisa Noble who used to walk them sends this:

“I just wanted to let you know about a wonderful reunion we just had in Sheffield.



Harry and Dixie and all their friends

I used to walk Harry and Dixie, 2 westies, for Ken Etchells. Ken sadly died in June 2014 and with The Trust's help the dogs were fostered with Barbara and Peter Padbury in Kent, who are also Cinnamon Trust volunteers.

Ken's partner Janet and myself have kept in touch ever since. We were sad that the boys were moving so far away but delighted that they would have a good home and would stay together. I was in Kent last summer and was lucky enough to pay the boys a visit in their new home, which was wonderful. They had not forgotten me and I could barely get

through the door! Barbara and Peter could not have been more welcoming.

Following this visit, they arranged to bring the boys to Sheffield, so that they could reunite with their old friends and visit some of their old haunts. This visit has just happened, and I am attaching some pictures.

On day 1, we revisited 2 of our favourite walks at Rivelin valley and Wyming Brook nature reserve. Harry and Dixie are older now and they don't walk as far or as fast as they used to. But instead of tootling along behind us, they shot off ahead in great excitement, as if to say 'Oh! We are here again!'

Later we went back to the street where they used to live, to visit Ken's neighbour George, who had looked after the boys for a week whilst arrangements were being made for their new home. Although they'd had much more walking that day than usual, and must have been tired, Harry and Dixie pulled us up the road, turned straight into the front path of their old home, and scratched at the door. It was so touching to see it. The lady who lives there now was very kind to us.

On day 2, Janet invited us all for afternoon tea, putting on an amazing spread. Our friend Bridget came with her little dog Daisy. Bridget and Daisy were our frequent walking buddies. She even walked the boys for me for 6 weeks when I broke my ankle. We'd often go out, get covered in mud, and put all 3 dogs in the bath before drying them off in front of the fire. Daisy was very happy to see her old pals

Harry and Dixie, and we all had a lovely time.

None of this would have been possible without The Cinnamon Trust. Ken would have been so happy to see the devoted care for his dogs and the continued relationship between us all. Janet, Bridget and myself are thrilled that new owners Barbara and Peter are willing to go to so much trouble not only to care for the dogs but also to understand where they came from, what their lives were like before, and who their friends are. We think they are one in a million.

In the group shot, l-r, Janet with Harry, Bridget with Daisy, myself with Dixie, and Barbara."



Ann Crean in Derby is enjoying life with **Rocky** and **Bella**.

"Well where do I start - after waiting a long time for a small active dog last June I received a phone call from Moira saying she had got the ideal pairing for me, and yes it was a "pairing" as she had two Toy English Terriers who were to be placed together. So after consulting my family and with some trepidation I decided to go ahead. I've not had one day of regret and we just gelled from the start.

Within a week of arriving they were on holiday with me (not ideal, but already booked) in the Lakes, and loved the beach, chasing rabbits in the dunes, and a boat trip on Lake Windermere. Everywhere we went they raised interest, which is not unexpected as at the recent Crufts Show they were named as an endangered breed.



It was good in the early days to be able to write to their previous owner and let her know how well they had settled. Shortly after this the lady passed away, but I was told how happy she was to know that her dogs were in a loving and settled home.

They both now do regular walks of up to 5 miles with 2 local walking groups and are great favourites with all the members. However come the evening they love nothing more than snuggling up on the settee with me one tucked under each arm and they are like two hot water bottles covered in their blue and pink blankets.

I can't imagine my life now without these two loving little dogs and another plus I've lost over one stone in weight since they arrived. Our 2016 holidays have now

started with a holiday on the East Coast last week and we will be coming to Cornwall in May when we hope to visit all at The Cinnamon Trust.

So thank you for the gift of Rocky and Bella and to anyone considering long term fostering, do so, they can bring you so much happiness.”



Jeremy and **Mandy Hurd** in Derby gave **Dinky** his forever home when owner Rosemary Maudson went into hospice care for cancer. Daughter **Emma** (14) takes up the story:

“On the 23rd December 2015, we collected Dinky from Susan and Martin's home in Hull. He'd been there in short term care for two weeks. Going home, he just sat on my lap and wanted a cuddle and some reassurance. His owner did an excellent job of caring for him as he is so loving and understanding. When watching TV, Dinky will just sit on your lap or lie down, enjoying the heat from the fire. He always wants to follow us around - even to places like the bathroom! When the bus comes to take me to school, Dinky doesn't want to leave me.”



Dinky loves to chase squirrels, sit on laps, play with his rope toy and simply just to be with us. He'd happily fly off after a ball and he lets off steam when off the lead. Dinky likes to climb on the rocks at Elvaston Castle and he is very well behaved. We hope he likes to go camping as we will be going to many new places for him to explore and discover!”



These very clever dogs, with a little help from their friends, sent their own views:

First, **Noble** in Devon with **Nicola Holden** says:

“This is a story about how things are in real life.

Hello, my name is Noble, nice to meet you readers. The first thing I need to explain is that I am a poodle and poodles, contrary to what the books say, are not dogs but then you can see that from the photo taken on my happy hols in Ireland recently.

Let's start at the beginning. Ten years ago when I was tiny I had the best human and she belonged to me. Her husband passed away the night I was born and so

I had to take care of her. She needed crutches to go for walks so we went to the park. Everyone laughed when I was naughty, and I was happy, bossy and mostly got my own way. Her daughters' family live nearby and they are still my family too and I really love to stay with them sometimes.



When I was about five I met Nic. Nic was going to retire in a year or two and Norman said that then he would buy her the poodle puppy she had always wanted, In the meantime Nic asked The Cinnamon Trust if there was a dog that needed walks and they told her about me. 'Course it was dreadful at first, I hated going in a car and always told her loudly, and there was no more park but more like cliff paths, river valleys, moors and rock pools with walks every day so I was tired. I'd never done bridges or mud or puddles but what's a chap to do? And during that year something that Nic never dreamed of happened, and that was that my first human became her very cherished friend.

Anyway that best human was a busy lady, on committees, always helping people and thinking only pleasant things so in addition to the walks gradually when she had to go away I spent days, then weekends and longer supervising Norman and Nic. Sadly after a year, when I was six, best human became poorly, with trips to doctors and hospital and then to a nursing home. We always visited every day, and the last time I saw her she just looked at me and said 'beautiful', and asked them if they would keep me. Norman didn't say anything: maybe he was overwhelmed. Nic said 'yes' and after we spoke to The Trust that is how I came to long-term foster them, though at that time I couldn't help noticing they both wondered just what was beautiful about me.

Settling in was mostly easy though I had to learn some manners fast. Boundaries? I found some, chasing and snapping weren't alright, and nobody laughed when I was naughty. In the end I got them to love me, who would not, and The Trust has always been there with help and advice.

Luckily Norman was a kind old boy and he understood me, so we were shocked when six months later he too became poorly. For two years it has just been Nic and I and we miss him so much but some things cannot be changed. Looking back Nic says I really drew her on because she had to get up to take me out and it's strange how some things happen for the best. Recently I've had some health issues of my own but The Cinnamon Trust has been wonderful and with their support and a brilliant vet I'm my old self and rushing around and enjoying playing again.

It's hot so I've been lying on my bed in the shady garden dictating this. Now we're off to the coast for a paddle up to my plimsoll line to cool me down, and then I'll swagger home.

Every morning as soon as Nic is up and dressed early we have a special cuddle before we walk, and every night last thing she says 'God Bless' (which is what best human used to say to me) and then Nic always tells me perfectly honestly that she thinks I'm beautiful, so I got her at last."



Amber at home in Suffolk with **Gillian Mason** says she's had a tough time:



"Hello, my name is Amber and I live in Felixstowe. I'm told I was named after the colour of my eyes and because I am so precious. My human people, my foster Aunty Gill and Uncle Trevor, also call me "the Ginger Whinger" which I think must be my Kennel Club name. I am part Corgi, part Belgian Shepherd which everyone says is an interesting cross - I certainly have the regal qualities of the Corgi and the strength of the shepherd breeds.

At 12 years young I am still an athlete, and have competed in the Felixstowe Fun Run two years running. This year I completed four 1-mile laps with hardly a hair out of place, while the humans all around me were covered in sweat (oh please!), out of breath and complaining about blisters.

Life has been a bit of a struggle for me, but you won't hear me complaining. I am a "charity" dog, belonging to The Cinnamon Trust since I lost my beloved mum earlier this year. I had to move to a new home with my foster Aunty Gill who I already knew as she used to take me for walks as a Trust volunteer. I was very sad at first but I was able to take a lot of things from my old home to comfort me. I am now well settled and enjoy taking my human people out for three walks a day whether they like it or not!!"



And **Ben** in Bedfordshire with **Kim Tyler** writes:

"I would like to share with you my - well actually mine and Alfred's - story.

Alfred was a lovely gentleman who gave me a new home when he was parted from his dog Cara. Like Cara I was lucky enough to have the support of The Cinnamon

Trust volunteers who walked me. The lovely lady was one of these volunteers, she came to walk me on Sunday afternoons with the funny man. We would go out for a couple of hours walking and a picnic which we all loved.

On our return we would have a cup of tea and cake with Alfred. Well in fact Alfred always made sure that the lovely lady had her favourite drink, Lucozade, and the funny man had his Kit Kat. I would sit down with Alfred on his chair where I belonged.

Unfortunately Alfred became very poorly and went into respite. Initially the lovely lady took some time off work to look after me at her home.



Ben and Alfred at home in
Letchworth 2010

It was all change for me - I liked living with the lovely lady most of the time, however, I didn't like being left alone - I was used to being with Alfred all day. The lovely lady had to go to work two days a week. She had arranged for me to have some walks and visitors during this time however I was so lonely.

The people at The Cinnamon Trust were great and they helped the lovely lady find me some 'Aunties' and 'Uncles' willing to get to know me and invite me into their homes when the lovely lady was at work. The lovely lady put an advert in our village magazine - and that was it - **I was famous! A C'LEB!** Yes, ladies stopped their cars and asked if I was the dog in 'the magazine'!

As a result of this advert I was lucky to get a lovely new 'Auntie' called Jennie and an Uncle, her dad, Uncle Mike. They looked after me on a Thursday! Auntie Rhonda (the lovely lady used to walk her dog Jasper through Cinnamon), had me on a Wednesday and not only that, Kaye, who used to walk me for Alfred would come over to spend time with me when the lovely lady was busy! Auntie Colette was also on hand if I needed a familiar face.

Alfred moved to a nursing home. He was very proud of my 'First Prize Rosette' awarded to me at the Meppershall Summer Fair in 2012 and had it on display by his bedside!

Unfortunately after being very poorly for a number of months Alfred died that September. The lovely lady was able to take me to visit him a few times, Alfred and I really loved this.

As time goes on - it's over 3 years now - the lovely lady spends much less time at

work and much more time with me!

I cannot believe how many people still do go out of their way to ask how I am getting on and to wish us well. The kids love me and ask if I am going home for 'Bennie Tea Time'.

My network of Auntie's and Uncles still keep in touch and occasionally look after me. My most recent Auntie - Lisa comes here to my home to sit with me when the lovely lady and funny man go out. I am really pleased she comes to my house - sometimes she takes me to hers to see Ozzie her black lab.

Of course nothing is the same as when I was with Alfred, but the kindness and support from everyone has made my transition into my forever home as painless as possible.

Thanks to the lovely people of Meppershall and The Cinnamon Trust I am now a permanent resident in our village - The lovely lady and funny man are now my life long foster parents! I am even on the committee for The Summer Fair and Good Neighbours! Yes I am the spoilt rotten dog that the sign in the hall says - but I am sure they, the lovely lady and funny man, wouldn't have it any other way!

Recently we had a tea party to raise funds for The Cinnamon Trust. Pat, Alfred's daughter, who still keeps in touch, was able to join us along with some of my Aunties, Uncle Mike and some of my four legged friends. Tea, cake and doggie biscuits flowed all afternoon.

I think it is really important to remember that the lovely lady and funny man can only foster me with the help of my Aunties and Uncles and The Cinnamon Trust.

It is a wonderful charity - **THANK YOU Cinnamon!**

Love 'n licks
Ben xx"



This is a first! A view in verse! When **Eileen** went to hospital, volunteer **Imelda Black** took Pip home and was inspired!

"When Pip Came to Stay

I was used to walking Pippy dog,
A Patterdale sure and true.
His owner said "if I get ill,
Pip would like to stay with you."

One day Cinnamon Trust called
And told me Pip needed a place to stay.
I said "Of course"" and grabbed my bag
And went round straight away.

Pip was sad, his owner had gone
And he had no clue why,
So I hugged him and we got his things
And to his home we said goodbye.

When Pip first got to my house
He wasn't sure he liked my cat,
But they soon curled up together
And he quite got over that.

My daughter liked to stroke him
And he snuggled with my son,
And playing with him in the garden
Was an awful lot of fun.

At night he had his basket,
But Pippy didn't like the dark,
So we left the kitchen light on
And after that he didn't bark.

In time he started to show us
He was quite a cheeky boy.
He'd nibble at our knees until
He got his favourite toy.

He liked to sit up and beg
To have his tummy tickled.
It made him a bit taller
Coz he really is quite little.

We had a lot of long walks
And Pippy got quite fit
It's good because he liked his food
Not just a little bit.

In the evening he'd climb beside me
And put his head upon my knee.
He'd close his eyes and go to sleep
While I sat and watched TV.



I'll miss Pip when he goes back home
Him staying has been great,
Because you know, it's really true
A dog is man's best mate!"



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

Andrea Hunt (Cornwall), **Maggie McNulty** (Ayrshire), **John Dennison** (Shropshire) and **Joan Grantham-Beckett** (Sussex).

Long Service Awards go to:

Marion Eburne (Surrey), **Margaret Hook** (Kent), **Thomas Nevols** (Hampshire), **Valerie Scriven** (Dorset), **Carol Birch** (Kent), **Ginny Garrett** (Cornwall) and **Judith Dawson** (Dorset).

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

Amanda Roberts (Bedfordshire), **Carole Fulker** (Hampshire), **Gina Searle** (Hampshire), **Bridget Stark** (Herefordshire), **Anne Redshaw** (Surrey), **Kim Upstill** (Hampshire) and **Katie Yates** (Devon).



To all our volunteers everywhere, the best ambassadors The Trust could have, a huge thank you for all that you do to bring happiness, relief, light and sunshine (whatever the weather!) into the lives of so many people and their precious reasons for living - their pets.



News from our brilliant Pet Friendly Care Homes:

Mrs Cannon and her beloved cat **Zoe** (17) live at **The Rosary** in Bridgwater, Somerset, a 5 star home. She says:

"I have been in The Rosary for 2 years and were lucky to find a home that would help me care for Zoe as I cannot stand so cannot feed her or change her cat litter.

Zoe has always been a mummy's girl and has never been keen about going outside. She likes to stay with me and is not only good company but can be very protective, if she thinks someone is hurting me she will jump on the bed and put

herself between us, she is very protective.

Zoe is 17 now and I am 87, it is my dearest wish that we go together, we both have our health problems now. I had heard about The Cinnamon Trust before I came into the home and know that if I need help getting Zoe to the vets they are there to help.”



Stella Papworth is the Manager at **Strathmore Lodge**, St Albans, Hertfordshire, a 5 star home and this is what she says:

“I am an animal lover and feel very strongly about having owners come to Strathmore with their pets. If a pet would mix well with the other residents’ pets they would be made most welcome.

We have three pets at the home Jake, a black Lab cross, who belonged to a resident who passed away but now lives with me. He comes to work with me every day to charm everyone and get his daily treats. Our other resident pets are Josh, a Westie, who lives with Patricia and MJ who is the house cat. At a recent resident's meeting the residents said they wanted a house cat so I went to a local rescue and MJ, who had been taken in by the council was so friendly she made the choice easy.

MJ soon made herself at home and is the perfect cat for us. She is often seen playing with residents, as I write this she is playing with Barbara in the garden who has a piece of string. MJ tends to bed hop checking in on all the residents (and collecting treats!) making sure everyone is ok.

However, she does seem to have a special bond with Patrick, she sits on his lap or on his armchair and settles down. If a member of staff comes in Patrick makes sure she is not disturbed so she stays as long as possible in his company.

Our other resident Jill who owns Josh has dementia but Josh has become so important to her. She has had him since he was a puppy and he is now 15 so parting with him because she was coming into a home would have been heart breaking. When we told her that she could bring Josh with her she could not believe it, she had no idea that there are some homes who will take owners and

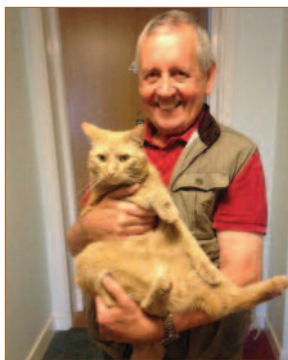


their pets. That is why The Cinnamon Trust's register is so important, we need to let people know homes like ours are out there”.

I couldn't agree more! AJ”



The **Olive House**, Fulham, London is a sheltered housing complex and this is a story told by **John** about a great friendship between John, his 6 year old ginger tom **Ollie**, **Phil** and his ginger boy **Dollop**:



John and Ollie

“Ollie is a **BOY** cat, he likes a bit of rough and tumble and we often play fight. He is not keen on my wife because all she wants to do is cuddle him. Although when it comes to feeding time butter would not melt and suddenly he is her best friend. He lies on my arm at night and touches my face when he wants me to cuddle him more.

He also has a friend that comes to visit. And his name is Dollop.



Phil and Dollop

Dollop travels in a lift with his owner Phil to call on Ollie and he knows exactly what floor to get out. If the lift stops on the 1st floor or second he makes no attempt to get out, on the 3rd floor out he trots straight to Ollie's door and starts tapping. When the door opens Ollie is there to meet Dollop and they greet each other with a mutual grooming session.

Sometimes Phil, Ollie and Dollop and I go for a walk in the gardens, Ollie and Dollop behave more like dogs than cats and walk alongside Phil and I as we walk around the grounds. They also copy each other, if Dollop rolls over, Ollie rolls over, if Ollie sniffs a flower Dollop has to have a sniff. They are so funny!

They are both minor celebrities, all the residents ask after them and I sometimes take Ollie with me to visit people as therapy. He brightens up their day and is an example to us all. Stop worrying about winning the lottery, stop worrying about what's happening next, just enjoy life now and above all RELAX!”



Helen Goodgrove, Manager of **Fairfield Country Rest Home** (5 stars) tells **Albert's** story:

“Albert moved into Fairfield 4 years ago. He moved in with his beloved rescue dog Tillie a Jack Russell, they were very close and Tillie “was never more than a few bounds away from his side”.

Being able to take Tillie with him into a care home, Albert said, made it instantly feel like home. Tillie settled in very well but sadly after a few months became poorly. She started having problems with her heart and after a week it became obvious that she was really struggling and the vets advised that the kindest thing would be to put her to sleep.

We tried our best at the home to support Albert but it was obvious he felt lost without Tillie. He would not eat and was just not at all himself. We all tried to persuade Albert to get another pet but he thought he was too old.

Eventually, we talked Albert round and I brought in a picture of another lovely Jack Russell called Cassie. She was very like Tillie and we had been told she was friendly and had a lovely nature. Albert fell in love straight away; when I brought her in I only had to look at Albert's face to know he had found another soul mate.”

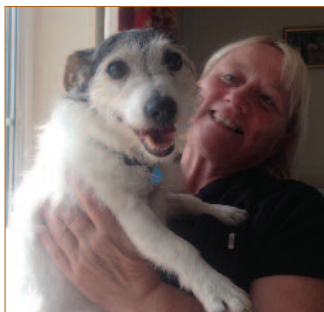
PS - Helen is very happy to have her home on The Cinnamon Trust's PFCH register. The Trust have in the past provided volunteers to help other residents with dog walking and trips to the vets when the staff were not available. Helen is going to speak to Albert about profiling Cassie with The Trust, she feels he would benefit from knowing that if anything happens to him and Cassie does not settle in the home without him The Cinnamon Trust would find the right foster for her.



Lots from **Coombe Hill Manor**, Kingston, Surrey - a 5 star home:

Marzi, Labrador age 9 years, **Bobby**, Lhasa Apso 9 years, **Muscha** 16 years and **Norman** the Greyhound.

Manager, **Mary-Jane Williams** likes to meet any pet coming to Coombe Manor to assess suitability and socialising levels she is assisted by her very calm and gentle greyhound **Norman**. She is a firm believer in having pets in care homes and realises the multiple benefits they bring. So



Cassie and Helen



Norman bringing laughter to a resident

much so that she suggested we speak to the residents directly:

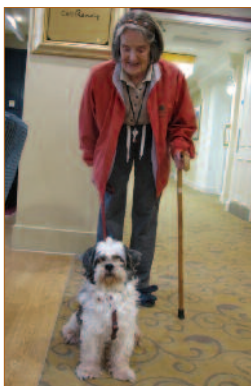


Marzi and Sheila

Sheelagh Williams who owns **Marzi** a beautiful Labrador aged 9 said:

"I have been a resident at Coombe Hill Manor for 2 years. My beloved husband and I came together with Marzi but he has since passed away. It was only after he had gone that I really appreciated how important Marzi was to me, she has helped me in so many ways to deal with my loss. Nothing could replace him but with Marzi here at least I am not talking to myself!

I cannot imagine how dreadful it must be for people who have to part with their pets when they go into a home. I think your PFCH register and everything that The Cinnamon Trust does to try and promote these homes is fantastic. I have certainly learnt more about The Trust and have asked for pet profile information, that way I know that Marzi's future is safe should anything happen to me and my family cannot have her."



Bobby with his owner Shirley, walkies time!

And **Sheila Linsley**, another resident, said:

"I do not have a pet but my room is next door to **Shirley** and **Bobby** Lhasa Apso aged 9. I help Shirley with Bobby because she has memory problems. Bobby is really what keeps Shirley alive, she may forget my name and the name of other residents but has no problems remembering anything about Bobby.

Bobby has five walks a day and everyone takes turns including the staff who are all marvellous. Having a pet to care for and love stops you dwelling on things, otherwise you may just sit in your chair thinking about yourself and worrying.

Having pets here lights up your day."



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

It's been a busy summer! The house martins and swallows that delight with their presence every year came in even more numbers and successfully reared even more babies, resident rabbits and pheasants tried to compete as did all the other

bird life. Dogs all the while enjoyed their paddling pools, picnics, al fresco pampering, agility games and quite a few birthday parties. The cats, well they did what cats do - laze in the shade, or in the sun dependent on preference, swipe at a feather or two, take a look at real birds passing through but distracted by electronic cat nip mice whizzing by!!

As ever, happiness was punctuated by sadness with the loss of beloved cats **Sheena** (18), **Dushka** (12), **Angel** (22), **Tiger** (13), **Felix** (21), **Jiminy** (15), **Ollie** (13) and **Jess** (16) and we've also lost **Bertie** (18) Collie/GSD cross, **Lily** (14) Collie cross and little **Tarra** (15) Westie. They leave treasured memories as individual as they were.

And, as ever, there is always someone new to come and join the family, make their own special mark, and **Moss** made his in double quick time! He's 11½, a Jack Russell cross with diabetes which hinders him not one jot! He doesn't appear to have an "off" button and goes about everything at high speed or high volume or both. You think he's asleep and so does the squirrel coming to pinch some bird seed - you're wrong - Moss is up in a flash, squirrel denied his tit bits And then there are



Moss

toys put there, of course, just for him to shred and shake to death which comes in quite useful because he diligently seeks and finds toys abandoned in the paddocks which we can rescue and resuscitate and all the balls, too! For all that he's irresistible, with the cutest little face and a wry smile, he loves having his tummy tickled, chicken dinners and having a ride in the van and the company of everyone - a really sweet little boy who just happens to be a terrier!

Leo and **Rosie** are 13 year old brother and sister who love each other dearly. Leo is adventurous and quite the man about town during the day while Rosie rather



Leo



Rosie

likes her creature comforts, will take the air and laze in sunshine but nothing more strenuous, when Leo comes in for the night, they cuddle up together, he gets a kiss or two and they groom each other before it's sleepy time. Leo is a stunningly handsome boy with a tail that most cats would pay for! It has a life of its own He is very friendly, very loving and very playful chasing balls and feather toys, pouncing on the scratch posts and rolling on catnip toys. He loves all food but especially prawns, anything fishy, chicken and yoghurt - which we discovered when a little paw stole some! He loves to be cuddled and groomed - Hillside suits him well and we are besotted! His sister is absolutely gorgeous with a really deep, husky purr and she adores being groomed and cuddled and tickled and if you stop, she taps you with her paw - "more please!" Rosie, too, has a wonderful appetite but prefers meaty dishes Impossible not to love her and impossible not admire her propensity to indulge in all things sensual!



Bunty

Bunty (18) and **Solo** (11) came together but that's really where the companionship ends! Bunty is the sweetest, gentlest soul you could ever wish to meet and she adores people. She loves to jump up on the kitchen counter first thing in the morning, she gets really close and then gently lifts her paw and places it on your face in the most affectionate way - not asking for anything just loving As you can imagine, she revels in being groomed and her little paw comes into action again but this time to ask for a tummy tickle! Salmon is her absolute favourite food but fresh chicken comes a close second and she does like her biscuits which she tenaciously defends should anyone dare to try and steal! And this girl is a sun worshipper who'll stay all day if the sun will! While she doesn't particularly get on with Solo, she has made friends with our Amber who often takes her on a guided tour of the premises - very sweet. Solo is a strikingly handsome boy with very long legs - he walks like a leopard stalking his prey, very quietly. He, too, adores people and rubs against you to get as close as he can. He loves the garden and rolling on the grass and he's fascinated by the goats who he can spend hours gazing at! Solo is a slim



Solo

boy with a voracious appetite - he'll clear a bowl of fresh beef or chicken in seconds which is great because he needs to put on a bit of weight. Another who loves to be groomed - perhaps to give him extra courage to chat up our little Bernie (girl) who he seems to have taken quite a shine to

Two absolutely gorgeous Collies, **Bob** and **Zak** have, in no uncertain terms brought new life to Hillside!! They are 11 year old brother and sister who do not act or show their age at all except for Bob's arthritis which is well dealt with by acupuncture. He is a very loving, gentle boy adored by everyone, he is also calm and placid and he always seems to be smiling! All that said, he is ball crazy. He loves it when we play football with him or shoot the tennis balls out of a K9 cannon and he does like to join in bunny chases (to no avail!). Bob loves his food and as is his way, he is very gentle when he eats but his bowl is always licked clean, especially when it's chicken pie with crunchy pastry! A true gentleman, he waits patiently for his goodies



Bob and Zak

when we have our picnics - everyone else just muscles in Bob loves to be groomed - he rolls over on his back and then sits up proud and straight. Bob will often come and just put his head on your lap for a cuddle or ear tickle. He loves paddling in the stream, trying out our big new tunnel on the agility course, saying hello to the goats and visiting Roadford reservoir to melt every heart he comes across.

Zak, in complete contrast, is a live wire, constantly on the go - if not chasing a ball, then rounding something up in true collie fashion - usually our little JR Matty! If Bob has a ball she circles round him and when we're hoovering she herds us and the Hoover! Zak is a very clever, playful, mischievous girl who is always happy, loving and affectionate. She loves her food, too, but she prefers her chicken in a creamy pasta sauce! And she, too, loves to be groomed, often dropping into a faraway place, on her back with four paws in the air!! Zak has her polite side - she always sits for a treat and loves to give you a paw and she's getting very good at agility, tackling the whole course with great enthusiasm. We are trying to teach her flyball but we have a slight problem in that she won't leave the ball long enough for it to fly! And Zak loves to walk, she wants to go with everyone, every time, everywhere, and if she's with you, you can play ball and she'll keep dropping it on

your feet 'til you do!! She will always find water on walks and always find extra balls and she and Lola Bear (our Pyrenean Mountain Dog) have mad chases round the garden with lots of mock charges. Zak lives life to the full and beyond, never seeming to tire ... her mind is so active and her body can keep up, BUT she does enjoy a bit of a lie in, in the morning. She always looks so comfy and snug. Her brother is immediately up and out but she lingers awhile before joining him on the patio - perhaps she's planning her activities for the day? A beautiful girl, in every way, who, like her brother will capture your heart with a single glance.

Now, as the days shorten, and leaves start to drop, there are different games to play aided and abetted by nature, cosy cuddle nights to anticipate as well as Christmas and one thing we can be absolutely certain of is that everyone will want seconds when time comes for Christmas dinner!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

The call came when an elderly couple knew they had to move from their home due to ill health and their only concern was for their beloved pets - 26 ducks, 8 hens and 2 goats who all lived together. Thankfully, we had the time, albeit it was a considerable challenge, to ensure we had all their requirements in place before their arrival. So, we had to build a huge “pond” (with an island), landscape around it with a variety and enormous number of plants, erect many duck houses and shelters, put in place lots of feed stations and drinking water and not forgetting a goat house. We were ready! All arrived safely and how they have enhanced our family.



Among the ducks we have cayugas, mallards, whistling tree ducks, diving ducks, Khaki Campbells and teal winged call ducks. They settled very quickly and happily to continue enjoying a luxurious and spoilt life!



Our resident cockerel was very pleased to welcome the gorgeous little silky hens to his harem and they in turn vied for his favours. All mingle happily together and do a regular round of the feeding stations to see what's on offer!



Billy the pygmy goat is 11 and **Micky** the mountain goat is 12. They too, check out all the feed stations and the chicken house, their special love is bananas with the skin on and ginger biscuits! They are very close and mutual grooming and rubbing against each other is imperative if they've been exploring solo. They enjoy an afternoon walk helping themselves to plants along the way. Billy is the leader and he calls to you in the morning, quite a chatty old boy! He can't possibly fit in the chicken shelter even though he's small but he does like to park his backside in the entrance and survey the world from there!



Billy

Micky, too, is quite a character and loves to be scratched. He always checks out the chicken house to see what's on offer there and if you offer him spinach he turns his nose up, **but**, give it to the ducks and suddenly it's a must have delicacy!! He loves to lay out in the sun making sure he doesn't miss anything. Both are very affectionate and revel in being groomed.



Micky

And stop press on this lovely family - one of the

silky hens has just hatched a chick.... and two ducklings - a duck, unbeknown to us, must have laid her eggs in the hen's nest! Now, two ducklings think mum is a chicken! They are so sweet.



Teddy

Bertie and **Teddy's** story is among the most poignant we've ever known. Owner **Nancy Johnson**, well into her eighties with, alas, many health problems was no longer able to care for her beloved ponies - for the first time in her long life she would be without horses. Such is her devotion that in spite of her considerable health problems, she travelled in the transport with her ponies all the way from Hampshire. She had to see where they would live out their days, she had to show them and tell them it would be alright. Nancy couldn't have been more delighted with what we had to offer her precious boys. It was a very emotional goodbye, not a dry eye in the house, and we didn't think we'd see her again. Bertie (our cover boy) is a Welsh Section A pony aged 13 and Teddy is a Shetland

pony aged 4. So very well bred that we decided to show them at Royal Cornwall Show. Nancy was so excited. Her friend offered to drive her, they booked a local hotel and once again, in spite of all her problems, Nancy was at the ringside at 7:30am to see her beloved boys. Unfortunately the classes for both were at the same time, so Teddy missed his, but Bertie gave Nancy what she described as one of the proudest moments of her life as she watched him, so beautiful, so proud, so impeccably well behaved, strut his stuff around the show ring. Even BBC television was there. Afterwards everyone's happiness was tangible as Nancy came and sat by the trailer and loved her boys once more.

Bertie is very powerful with tremendous presence, but so gentle with it. He's very protective of his little friend Teddy who is very cheeky and stubborn! He tries to steal Bertie's breakfast and, wait for it, he does "handstands" on his feed bucket! Both love to be groomed but with Teddy, it's on his terms - when he's had enough he walks off. He will not wear a fly mask and he hates flies so he has his own solution - he sticks his head under Bertie's tail, Bertie swishes his tail, flies gone! Teddy is surely his own little man but he and Bertie have a very close bond with Teddy like a naughty young brother who gets away with anything!

With love and happiness, there inevitably comes sadness and for us there's been bucket loads when we lost **Fifi** (18), **Tippy 2** (16), **Bianca** (11), **Pixie** (18), **Oliver** (17), **Shelby** (17) and **Pippin** (17) - cats we adored and who have each left us with treasured memories. And we've also lost **Candy**, Toy Poodle (16), **Pollyanna**, Shih Tzu (14), **Honey**, Shih Tzu (16), **Sharlie**, Bichon Frise (16), **Tess**, Collie (17),

Billy, Yorkie (15) and our dear little rabbit, **Bobby** (9). Every one unforgettable, every one loved beyond measure

Happiness prevailed when **Sadie** came to stay. She's a German Shepherd cross aged 16 who is exceedingly loving and gentle. She loves to climb on the sofa and have big cuddles. A very happy girl who is always smiling, her tail is always wagging - she loves people, loves all the other dogs, loves her food, loves everyone going together to explore different walks. She's very playful but only plays with her special toys - the ones she brought with her and she bows and bounces to get you to play chase! She also loves to paddle in the sea and in the river. A darling girl who captures every heart.



Sadie

Sophie (16) is a very flirtatious Papillion who makes up to all the boys! She, too, loves to explore new places especially by the river and in the woods but under no circumstances will she get her feet wet. She is a sunshine girl and if it's raining, or it's been raining, she stops dead at the door and nothing, not even her favourite sausage, will persuade her to go out! Having said that, she loves a warm bath and more especially, a blow dry. Her amazing ears ensure she doesn't miss anything. When she thinks it's time for bed, she comes and tells you and will keep telling you until you give in and climb the stairs - she's ahead of you and can't wait to get up on the bed and cuddle in for the night - adorable.



Sophie

It's hard to believe that **Jenna** is 17! She's so active, so alert, so chatty, so playful, so full of energy she can out run all of us! She gets down rabbit holes, gets stuck in bushes, digs like mad on the beach and in the flower beds, gets covered in everything. She has a hearty appetite to ensure there's plenty of fuel on board to support all this activity and she's also very clever, working out interactive doggy games in a trice. If she wants something - anything - she'll bark to let you know and makes it clear, extra walk, extra snack, or cuddle! She is very beautiful, particularly photogenic, very, very loveable and when she does sleep it's upside down!



Jenna



Honey

Honey (15) will venture into the sunshine when the mood takes her but she likes her home comforts! Loves to snuggle on the sofa and have lots of cuddles, she's very loving. She does like to patrol all the cat rooms looking for the best dish of the day - for her this would be fresh mackerel or sardines in tomato sauce! She's an adorable, talkative little girl who runs to greet you in the mornings.



Beauty

Beauty (16) came with an outdoor house her neighbours built for her when her owner's carers wouldn't let her in the house. She abandoned it after two days when she realised she **could** come in our house, she **could** snuggle in a favourite chair with her favourite cat nip mouse. She likes to climb trees and play with the water fountain. As her name suggests she is a beauty inside and out and she has the most calming, soporific purr especially when she has a pamper and groom after supper.



Billy

Billy (14) is a true gentleman. He'll have a mad five minutes occasionally but really he's just a big, laid back, gentle softy. He loves to lay on his back and have his tummy tickled, he's very courteous to other cats, very loving to us and he has such a quiet voice for a big boy. As befits a gentleman his tastes are refined, but easily met. A perfect "comfortable" cuddle of a cat.

We're not quite sure how we're going to decorate all those duck houses for Christmas but decorate them we will! A magical time for all to enjoy, there'll be a special feast for everyone, presents galore to open - who could resist the happy faces with which every single one of our residents will repay us?

Poetry Corner

Our first poem comes from the heart of **Anne Chelton**.

Kitty

I've had so many different cats,
While living in this house,
Almost fifty years of love,
And hardly seen a mouse!!
I've lost them in so many ways,
And many tears I've shed,
Each personality shone through,
Each one I've loved - I've said ...
But now I reach my final year,
I've one who shares my heart,
We've been together sixteen years,
And hardly far apart.
The time I've spent in hospital,
I knew she grieved for me,
And I, in turn, I grieved for her,
For she is part of me.
She is the one who knows my pain,
And I in turn know hers,
I fear that I will lose her,
I fear that I go first ...
She shares my bed, and when I wake
She reaches out a paw,
And looks with love into my eyes,
What love could ask for more?
You hear of cruelty to cats,
How ignorant is man,
They know not of a cat's love,
As so many of us can ...
But KITTY - my devoted friend,
My confident and Pal,
I pray that when I leave this Earth,
God Takes Us BOTH - Somehow



And this is lovely, author unknown.

The Little Dog Angel

High up in the Courts of Heaven to-day
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 the little dog angel cocks his ears
And dreams that his master's voice he hears.

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

Next year will mark 35 years since I first started my work to found Cinnamon Trust and I'm so pleased and so proud that even after all these years, CT is still so very special and this is thanks, in no small part, to all of you - staff, volunteers, supporters, Patrons and Trustees, the tens of thousands we help and all the wonderful animals that bind us together in love.

The Christmas message is love and hope, and we all naturally reflect on times past, so as the year draws to a close, may I ask you, please, to raise a glass in everlasting love and gratitude to absent friends.

A very happy Christmas and may 2017 be kind to us all.

God bless, everyone

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

