
NEWSLETTER

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Registered Charity No 1134680



Spring 2017
Number 62

Dear Friends

The very best time of year has been heralded by the very best Crufts! Our stand was the busiest it's ever been, always so wonderful to meet lots of our volunteers, touching to meet friends and relatives of pet owners, and one or two pet owners themselves that we have helped or are helping. A huge draw was the gorgeous **Cuthbert** (Bertie) who came to help man the stand! He is Cinnamon's eleven greats grandson and he was fantastic, absolutely loved all the attention and, in most appropriate fashion, he played to the gallery!!





And, of course, our Young Volunteer of the Year, **Ayrtan Cooper** from Nottinghamshire was presented with his very well earned award. Our fabulous plate was presented by **Rosemary Smart**, Chief Executive of The Kennel Club, accompanied by Valerie Fosse, President of the Young Kennel Club. Ayrtan walks two dogs twice a week each without fail – **Sprocket** owned by **John Abbot**, and **Scooby** owned by **Philip Sims**. On only his second walk with Sprocket he found John collapsed – his quick thinking ensured John was taken to hospital and he took Sprocket home until we found an emergency short term foster. John and Sprocket were reunited a couple of weeks later and all has been well since.



CT '100 Club

The big winner who received £100 in December was **Ann Harrison-Brooks** (Kent), other winners who have each received £25 are: Oct: **Joyce Thurbon** (Cornwall), Nov: **Jean Vellacott** (Surrey), Jan: **Marie Caltieri** (Yorkshire), Feb: **Kenneth Tilley** (Dorset) and March: **Mary Shell** (Warwickshire).

Fundraising Events

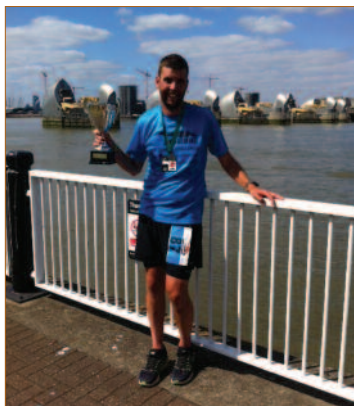
Anne Davies (Norfolk) raised £35 in lieu of presents for her 80th birthday. **Beth Missen** and **Eve** (with Scamp's help) raised £90 from their coffee, tea and cake afternoon. **Margaret New** (Monmouthshire) held a coffee morning at Caldicot Methodist Church and raised £184. **The East Grinstead Veterinary Hospital** held a stall at the local May Fair with various activities throughout the day and raised a terrific £245. **Judith** and **Laura Dranfield** (Cornwall) raised £107.20 from the sale of plants. **Margaret Offord** (Devon) raised £206.25 in lieu of presents for her 80th birthday. **Stopgap Ltd** (Surrey) have a charity pot every year, they raised a wonderful £229.38 from cake sales, bring and buy sales and Summer/Christmas festivities. **Barbara Atkins** (Dorset) held a plant sale and raised £220. **Village Vets** (London) raised £50 from their activities. **Mrs Virden** and everyone at **Honing with Crostwight Parochial Church Council** (Norfolk) held a Pets' Service and raised £81. **Broomhill Veterinary Practice** (South Yorkshire) held a Fun Day and raised a superb £450! **Emma Jack** and the staff at **Canterbury Benefit Centre** raised £85.86. Members of staff at **The Willow Veterinary Clinic** (Staffordshire) took part in a half marathon and raised a fantastic £750. **Mary Ede** (Berkshire) raised £50 from her stall at Bracknell Paws in the Park. **Steve Kilham** and everyone at **Greenworld Sales Ltd** (Norfolk) nominated us as their Charity Of The Year and two members of staff completed a 5k Charity walk, they raised £200.21. **Bernice Miller** (Norfolk) raised £41 from her stalls at Caister and Tunstead. **Victoria Harvey** and everyone at **Pins & Needles** (Wiltshire) raised £24.83 throughout the year. **Sally Baggaley** (Shropshire) raised £150 from the sale of houseplants, garden produce etc. **Caroline Stroud** (Bedfordshire) raised £187.25 from various activities. **Angela Harris**, **Diane Croxford** and **Jackie Gordon** (East Sussex) held a stall at Bishopstone Fete and raised £82. **Rosalind Pierson** (Devon) held a 'Dog's Breakfast' and raised £150 – they must have enjoyed it! **Sarah Carratt** and **Lizzie** (Derbyshire) raised a wonderful £495 in lieu of wedding gifts from friends and family – many congratulations! **Muriel Sibree** (Norfolk) raised £50 from her stall. **Ann Canfer** (West Sussex) with help from **Cliff** and **Jackie Kempshall**, held a stall at AlphaPet Veterinary Clinic's Dog Show and raised £77. The amazing **Maggie Martin** (West Sussex) has raised a magnificent £1,578 from many events including coffee mornings, fairs and sales. **Christine Sumsion** (Somerset) has also been busy, she raised £245 from the sale of gold and jewellery, a meeting of the Kewstoke Tuesday Group, the contents of her small



Margaret New



Mary Ede's stall



Steven James



Doggies and Moggies challenge

change pot and a stall. **Karen Taylor** (Bristol) sent £41 raised by everyone at **South Gloucestershire Council Offices**. **Rita Curtis** (Cornwall) raised £100 from her table top sale at Latchley Chilsworthy and Cox Park Horticultural Show. **Steven James** (Bristol) entered a challenge to run the entire length of The River Thames, from source to sea (over 180 miles!) and raised a staggering £555.01 – what a feat, well done Steven. His employer **Aviva**, sent a further £250. Everyone at **Doggies and Moggies**, dog walking and pet sitting service (Cumbria) took part in their 2016 challenge and walked the length of Hadrian's Wall – 84 miles, it took 3 days and they raised a terrific £357.50 – very well done! **Cathy**

Care (East Sussex) with help from **Angie Hubbard**, **Pat Hales** (and **Sam** the dog!) held a stall at the Animal Charities Fair and raised £175.56. **Gail Everett** (Somerset) with help from **Mark** and **Georgina**, held their annual dog show at Dunster Beach Holidays and raised £210. **Brinny Lyster** (Oxfordshire) has been busy raising £210 from her cat feeding and dog walking service. **Sheila Payne** and everyone at **All Saints Church Findon Valley** with **St Peters's High Salvington** (West Sussex) held a Pets' Service and raised £47.40. **Trish Reeve** (Suffolk) raised £20 from

her activities to the Top Time Group at the Newmarket Library. **Yvonne Joslin** (Hampshire) raised £60 from the Oakhanger Fun Dog Show. **Diane** and **Peter Davis** (Surrey) held a super summer garden party and raised a fantastic £1,250. **Alan Ede** (West Sussex) raised £100 from the **Tuesday Club** at Motspur Park. **Dorothy Chadwick** (Derbyshire) made some brilliant catnip toys, sold them at **Clowes Chemist** in Buxton and raised £75. **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) has been brilliant again. With help from **Jo Sadler**, **Wendy Ralphs**, **Lynda Matthews**, **Jean Wesley**, **Jean Smith**, **Heather Martin**, **Sue Bradford**, **Vikki** and **Tony Holt** and **John Parry** she's held tombolas, stalls, stands, skittles and a



Janet Morgan's scent workshop, skittle night and with Rebekka at Clent Hill Vets

scent workshop to raise £795.46. **Janet** also sent £220 which **Rebekka Fiorani** and staff at **Clent Hill Veterinary Practice** raised from their Christmas raffle and they have chosen us as their very first Charity of the Year. **Alison Holt** and colleagues from **Pike Moor Vets** (Lancs) raised £116.65 on their stall. **Christine Lawn** and **The Lupset Park Group** (West Yorkshire) have raised an amazing £585 at various events throughout the year. Volunteer, **Sian Fletcher** (West Sussex) organised a beautiful walk on the South Downs followed by refreshments and the 64 walkers thoroughly enjoyed her home-baked treats which raised £50. **Mike Pryer** (Kent) and the congregation of **The Church in Burham** held various events in August from afternoon tea to a film night and raised £110. **The Knit and Natter Group** (Surrey) raised £50. **Donna Wills** (Berkshire) raised £37.10 from Paws In The Park. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) sold more of her lovely greeting cards at Laburnum House Lodge and held a stall at Blake Vets' Open Day to raise £100. **Krystie Bright** and the nursing team at **Henderson and Keywood Veterinary Surgery** (Surrey) took part in a 5k Rough Runner challenge and raised a superb £825.81 – really well done! **Ingrid Linney** (Stoke-On-Trent) braved the weather to attend Pebbles Legacy Doggy Day Out and despite the atrocious weather conditions she raised £10, what dedication! **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) raised a terrific £363.79 from “boot” sales and with help from **Ann Dobson**, **Marion Eburne**, **Molly Bridges**, **Lynne Dorset** and **Vale Makda** a bucket collection at Asda in Burgh Heath. **Rachel Mulheron** and all at **Blue Insurance** (Cardiff) nominated us as their Charity Of The Year, they raised a fantastic £744. **Ruth Hollingsworth** (Hertfordshire) held a general sale and raised £30. **Rosemary Felstead** (Somerset) with help from neighbour **Joyce**, held a church coffee morning and



Pike Moor Vets



Krystie Bright and team from Henderson and Keywood Vets



Ingrid Linney's broken gazebo



Christian Crewe



Rachael Burt's dog biscuits



Maggie Evans fun day



Hugh Blundstone's launch party



Lorraine Hawkins stall

raised £68. **Rachel Burt**

(Northamptonshire) with help from her friend sold scrummy home-made dog biscuits at the local scarecrow weekend and then sold more to raise £240. **Maggie Evans** (Bristol) along

with CT volunteers, **Judith, Mark and Millie Mantell** and friends **Bianca Petkova** and **Mel Ward** attended the Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary Fun Dog Day and raised a fabulous £250. **The**

Beeches Veterinary Centre (Wiltshire) sent £82 raised from a 'pet selfie' photo competition they held. **Nigel Harding** and the congregation of **St Michael's Church Axmouth**

(Devon) held a Pets' Service and raised £100. **Sharon Bates** (Devon) raised £65 from her visit to Age Concern (Barnstaple & District). **Hugh**

Blundstone (Worcestershire) raised £250 at the launch party for his book 'Across The Ferry And Along The Cut'.

Carla Johnson (Essex) likes a challenge so took part in the 'Bantham Swoosh' a 6k river swim in Devon, first time she has swam this far to raise a brilliant £295 – Carla calls it insanity, I call it very brave! Another brave soul!

Lucretia Lindsay (Suffolk) took part in and completed the Yorkshire Three Peak Challenge and raised a superb £275. **Ann Mugford** (Cornwall) raised £39 from a lunch gathering with friends. **Chris Harnett** (Kent) is part of the local pub quiz team, who nominated us as charity of the month and raised £100.

Lorraine Hawkins (London) manned a stall at the Arnos Grove Dog Show, had a great day and raised £120. **Samphire Quilters** (Norfolk) raised £352 when they held an exhibition of their work. Everyone at **Crowborough Community Plus** (East Sussex) enjoyed a Chi Gong session with **Anita Wilmowski** and raised £30. During her year as Mayor of Great Yarmouth, **Shirley**



Shirley Weymouth at Taverham Vets

Weymouth chose The Cinnamon Trust as her charity of the year and raised a stonking £4,906.51. £760 of this was raised by **Taverham Vets** who held a 'bake off' event, £943 from a fashion show in Hemsby (with £100 coming from **Haven Great Yarmouth Rotary** and £50 from **Poppy Winterton's** post office as a thank you for Shirley officially opening their shop – what a fantastic year. **Sheila Hurst** (Devon) raised £130 from the sale of her lovely jams and chutneys. **Caroline Hendra** and **Sylvia Cottle** (Lancashire) raised £75 on a stall at a Fun Dog Show. **Sue Palmer** (West Midlands) celebrated a special birthday, her 70th and raised £150 in lieu of presents and the contents of her small change jar. **Sandra** and **Chris Belcham** (Abergavenny) and CT recruit **Jack**, raised £148 from the sale of old batteries donated by Monmouthshire Golf Club (amongst others). We were nominated by a member of **The KONG** Company's operation and finance team (Wiltshire) they sent us £1,000 – fantastic! **Brigitte Cosford** (Ayrshire) held several boot sales, sold her brilliant hand-made fleece dog tug toys and raised £83. **Dorothy Ellis** (Norfolk) and friends held a bric-a-brac stall and raised £387.80 in appreciation of our volunteers who walk her beloved **Pippa**. **Patricia Pigott**, Estate Manager and all at **Hanover Housing's Cambray Court** raised £249. **Elaine Evans**, an employee of **C & J Clark International Ltd** (Somerset) nominated us to benefit from their fundraising and sent £100. **Martin Boatfield's** friend, **Linda** (Kent) organised an "Autumn Bazaar", they gave out over 2000 flyers, three tables were set up for us which raised a wonderful £250. **Christine Ellis** (Somerset) raised £12.13 at Dulverton Pet Shop. **Barbara Watson** (Somerset) celebrated her 80th birthday and in lieu of presents she raised £125. **Carys Finley**, **Hermione Blackledge** and **Freya**



Caroline Hendra and Sylvia Cottle



Dorothy Ellis and Jenny

Nash of Haslingden High School and Sixth Form (Lancashire) raised £50 at the school's annual Charity Day. **Mara Allen** (Essex) held a delicious bake sale at her office and raised £100. **Camborne Live At Home Scheme** (Cornwall) raised £67.45. **Chris Graville** (Sussex) held a half day hand massage for some ladies at the seaside and raised £30!! **Glenda Clark** (Northamptonshire) raised £150 from her afternoon tea. **Maggie Brombley** (Somerset) volunteered her dog **Polly** for a sponsored slim, Polly reluctantly obliged and raised £25! Bless! **Martin, Jenny and Kia Reed** (Essex) helped organise the Maldon Mud Race again this year, lots of people waded through thick mud, had a chuckle and raised a fantastic £500. **Emma** from **Axe Valley Veterinary Practice** (Somerset) raised £65 from their collection tin. **The New Inn**, Hurstpierpoint (West Sussex) raised £28.35, **Margaret Scott** (Northamptonshire) at **Little Houghton Post Office & Stores** raised a brilliant £355 throughout the year! **Worthing Homes** (West Sussex) raised £30 from their collection tin. **Alison Barbour (New Page Recruitment, London)** chose us as her charity of the year and raised £105. Val Jevans' aunt **Mrs K Sybil Bonsey** celebrated her 90th birthday, a very special occasion and raised £150 in lieu of presents, we had helped walk Bonnie. **Carolyn Morris** (Cornwall) sold books on her doorstep in Fowey and raised £140. The congregation of **Cathedral of Our Lady & St Philip Howard** (West Sussex) held an Animal Blessing Service and raised £161.23 – lovely one. **Cambridge Cat Clinic** held their open day and raised £75 from raffle ticket sales. **Denise Lucas** (Dorset) won Volunteer of the Year 2016 at Liverpool Victoria, for going above and beyond, she nominated us to receive her £50 prize. **Terracycle UK** (Middlesex) raised £100 from their recycling fundraising programme. **Julie Aris** (East Sussex) held another of her infamous quiz nights at Westham Village Hall and raised a terrific £235.50. **Karen Piggott** (Hampshire) completed the Great South Run and raised £40 – well done! **Headway Essex** raised £30 for us. **Animal Veterinary Services** (our own vets!) raised £39.88 from their collection tin. **The Monday Leisure Club** (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne) raised £35. **Shirley Methodist Church Guild** (Surrey) raised £50. **Peter and Vicky Daley** (Cumbria) raised a brilliant £440 from looking after **Holly, Poppy, Loki and Midge** when their mum and dads went on holiday. **Harriet Howell** and her family (not forgetting **Scooby!**) decided to abstain from giving each other Christmas gifts this year and raised £75. **Mrs J Pooley** and **The Duloe Bingo and Whist Players** (Cornwall) raised £102. **Jean Bacon** (Norfolk) held a quiz for the Great Yarmouth Probus group and raised £25. **Elizabeth Brownhill and The Regent Court Residents and Owners Association** (South Yorkshire) held a coffee morning and raised £15. A customer of **The Yorkshire Building Society** (West Sussex) nominated us to benefit from their Charitable Foundation and they sent £100. **The Old Vicarage Home** (Dorset) one of our wonderful Pet Friendly Care Homes, raised £250 from their very happy Christmas Fair. **Lorraine Everett** (Hampshire) celebrated her 70th birthday and raised £145 by abstaining from receiving gifts. **Sylvia Halley** (Buckinghamshire) held a coffee morning and craft sale, with help from the craft group, **Michele Chambers, Sue Dickinson, Wynn Jones, Anne Manning,**

Ann Mattingley, Linda Mehio, Jan Payne and **Doreen Penn** – all these super bakers and super crafters worked hard and raised £300 – fantastic! **Patricia Stephen** (Surrey) and her friends held a lunch party and raised £65 – nice one! **Maggie Boulton** (Somerset) held a coffee morning and raised £60, **Michael Patton's** daughter, **Esme** (London) raised £112 at Brownies! She heard of us via her gran! Excellent. **Lacey Pitcher** (Oxfordshire) together with the vets and nurses of **Banbury CPD club**, raised £50 through their learning lectures. **Joy Roberts** (Leicestershire) sadly lost her beloved horse last summer, the livery yard kept some of his rugs and other items so Joy raised £110 for us in his memory.

Clients of **Haven Veterinary Practice** (Essex) **Mr & Mrs Cook** donated and vet, **Padraig Cronin**, nominated us to benefit and we received £100. **Judith Westacott** (Devon) has again been marvellous – she raised £500 from The Totnes Carnival Committee and her Elizabethan Market stall – what a star!

The Freemasons Connaught Lodge (Hampshire) raised £300 for us as their charity of the year. **Jolene Bayliss** (West Midlands) has a very talented 12 year old daughter **Mariann**, who made and sold dog toys and bandanas to raise a wonderful £90. She also won the Under 12 agility dog of the year semi-



Mariann Bayliss

final at Crufts with her gorgeous dog **Lucy** – well done Mariann! **Jean Langridge's** husband (Kent) has again made and sold more lovely wooden reindeers and snowmen and raised £35. All the volunteers at **The Crossing Charity Shop, Kirkby in Ashfield** (The Parish Church of St Wilfrid) have been busy again, they raised a fabulous £120 throughout the year. **Emily Thomas** (Gloucestershire) held Virtual Races in August and raised £200 – that's a new one! **Franek Kornike** (Worthing) celebrated his 100th birthday and raised £25, a fascinating gentleman, he is one of the only surviving Polish Spitfire pilots in WWII, he survived over 180 sorties, as well he was the youngest commander in the RAF. He has been honoured by the Queen and received numerous medals – many, many congratulations! **Waitrose** (Sussex) raised £280 as we were included in their Community Matters green token campaign – brilliant! **Vilma Morris** (Herefordshire) has been making and selling beautiful cards and raised £200 in appreciation of volunteers, **Pam** and **Trevor** walking **Lucky** for over 9 years. **4F Pets and Products** (Cornwall) raised £48.65 and **Inner Wheel Club of Bude** (Cornwall) raised £40. **Lynda Mersh** (Sussex) and her husband have again had much fun, they raised £55 from a spot of 'internal betting' on the result of University Challenge! **Lynn Laramy** (Devon) raised £30 from her visit to Ogwell Womens' Institute. **Viking Veterinary Surgeons** (Bristol) held a raffle and raised

£70. **Mary** and **Barbara Smith** (Kent) raised £600 from the sale of garden produce and eBay sales – Barbara being the whiz – fantastic! **Jeanne Thomas** and her friend **Linda McCann** (Pembrokeshire) knitted and sold snowmen and raised £50. **Kay Parker** from **Island Lodge Caravan and Camping site** (Devon) raised an amazing £773.85 from the sale of footwear and clothing, many holidaymakers also donated for using wifi and having their four-legged companions on holiday at no additional cost – well done Kay! **Jennifer Muir** (Cornwall) raised £55.93 - the proceeds of displaying posters in her garage window last year! **Carole** and **The Customer Care Team at Numatic International Ltd** (Somerset) raised £50 from their Christmas jumper day and in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Sandra Pridgen** (Lincolnshire) with the help of **Margaret Scott** and **Steve Mason**, held their yummy annual Christmas bake for family and friends and raised £75. **Flo Croucher** (Somerset) sold her knitting and delicious homemade preserves on her stall under a gazebo at the garden gate, she raised £150. **Medivet Islington** (London) raised £65 and **Gill Duroe** (Northamptonshire) sold all **Marleen Freeman's** knitted fingerless mitts at agility shows and raised £405 – brilliant one! **Marjorie Hobby** (Hampshire) arranged a walk/run/swagger/stagger around Lasham Airfield on New Years Day and raised a fantastic £502! **Christina Davison** (Glamorgan) raised £70 with the sale of Christmas cards, **Sylvia** and residents from the **Lower Morden Lane Christmas Lights Collection** (Surrey) lit up their houses and dressed up and raised £15. **Sally Key** (Lincolnshire) raised £100 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Jacquie** and everyone at **Smith and Reed Recruitment, Truro**, raised £75 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Helen Ralston** (Sussex) celebrated her 60th birthday, abstained from receiving presents and raised a stonking £921.50! Here's to many more Helen! **Philemena Hooper** sells her books at The Punch Bowl and Ladle (Truro) she raised £178.15. **387 Veterinary Centre** (Staffordshire) held 'guess the value of the coins in a jar' and raised £25. **Roebuck Veterinary Group** (Hertfordshire) raised £12 for us. **Ardmore Veterinary Group** (Suffolk) had a pop-up tea shop and raised a fabulous £534.02 – what a great idea! **Glenis Robinson**



Ardmore Vets pop-up tea shop



Ava and Lucy

(North Yorkshire) sold soft toys and raised £30. **Margaret Hobbs** (Middlesex) celebrated her 80th birthday, she raised £100 in lieu of receiving birthday presents and **Ash Tree Veterinary Centre** (Suffolk) raised £62.43. **Wendy Ralphs** (Worcestershire) raised £53 at the **Feckenham Community Shop** where she works. **Andrea Aldam** (Devon) ran the Totnes 10K and The Eden Project half marathon and raised a terrific £293.70. **Vale Cole** visited **The Watch Ashore**

Plymouth & District Branch who raised £25 for us.

Elvenhome Dog Club (West Sussex) held a summer raffle and sports day and raised £30.

Tuffley Agility Club (Gloucestershire) raised £11.40 at their Agility Show. **Red Dog Training** (Hertfordshire) ran a 'Have A Go Agility' event at Much



One to One dog training club

Hadham Fundraising Day and raised £65.25. **One To One Dog Training Club** (Isle of Wight) held their first 2 ring, 2 judge, 2 day Talking Dogs Rally Trial and organised a raffle on each day to raise, exhausted but happy, a marvelous £125 – sausages all round! **North Derbyshire Dog Agility Club** raised £337 from their 2016 club show. **Thornbury Dog Training Club** (South Gloucestershire) held a sponsored walk along the banks of the River Severn. Their chairperson's employer matched the sponsorship money, they sent a stupendous £750! **Paws For Fun Dog Training Club** (Cornwall) raised a fantastic £500, **Cheltenham and District Dog Training Club** held their Open Show and raised £179 from their rings and a tombola. They then sold tuggies and tennis balls throughout the year to raise another £56! **South Bucks Agility Club** raised £160 from their Beginners' Agility Show. **Andover and District Dog Training Society** held an Open Show and raised £200, being contributions from handlers for extra dog stays after the main competition as well as judges donating their expenses and support for the club. **Dogwise Training School** (Wiltshire) raised £200 from their Doggy Fun Day. **Bridlington & District Canine Society** (North Yorkshire) held their annual Limited Dog Show and raised £100 from their raffle. **The Southern Collie Club** (Surrey) are sadly closing, they sent us a terrific but sad £740! **Northern Maremma Association** (now dissolved) sent £297 – another sad one. **Altringham & District Dog Training Society** (Manchester) sent £200, **The Whippet Club** (Derbyshire) raised £150. **Tyne Tees Dog Training Club** sent £250 from their remaining funds when they closed – oh dear. **The Welsh Corgi League's** fundraising 100 Club has also been wound up, **Sue Harrison** ran it for 21 years, they donated £321.14 remaining funds. **Downland Agility** (East Sussex) nominated us as one of their charities of the year and raised £250. **Pixie Acorn Dog Agility Club** (Gloucestershire) raised £100, **Manston K9 Society** (Kent) held their Christmas Dog Show and raised £225. **Snoopy Dog Training Club** (Herefordshire) raised £200 on their brilliant Christmas raffle. **Plymouth Dog**

Training Club held their Christmas party, with fancy dress, party games for the dogs, mince pies and cream for the handlers and much fun they raised £300. **Alpha Dog Training** (London) raised £250, **Wensum Dog Training Club** (Norfolk) raised £100, **Launcells/Bude Dog Training Agility Club** held their ever popular doggy tombola and raised £300 and **Littlehampton Dog Training Club** once again chose us as their charity of the year and raised a stonking £1,000.

I think you should all have a nice glass of whatever takes your fancy! You've been stunning again and I can't thank you enough for all the time, effort, hard work and ingenuity not forgetting many aching limbs. Thanks to you we can ensure the very best of everything for our precious CT pets and their smiley faces are worth every penny!



Volunteer Views

Our first view is from **Helen Slater** in Hants:



Josie and Jackson

"My 12 year old daughter Josie had expressed how she wanted to get involved in helping animals. I suggested we got in touch with The Cinnamon Trust. My good friend in Plymouth had informed me of the charity. The Cinnamon Trust were happy for Josie to dog walk with my supervision so we applied and were quickly signed up as volunteers.

We were introduced to Wendy and her sweet little dog Jackson aged 13years!!! Wendy is unable to walk Jackson so both Josie and I visit twice a week to take Jackson out. It's also nice to visit Wendy and we have all become very good friends.

Wendy expressed she really likes our visits and looks forward to us coming. Jackson has slowly got to know us but is very attached to Wendy so doesn't like to leave her especially in the cold weather!!! We have to find little treats to convince him of a walk sometimes as he likes to stay in the warm.

Walking Jackson is also a wonderful opportunity for me to catch up with my daughter after a busy day at work. Josie will tell me about her day at school and what's going on in her little world. It's really lovely.

I've gained many things from joining The Cinnamon Trust. It's a great feeling connecting with people who require help and knowing you're making a difference. Wendy gets so much comfort from Jackson, it's lovely to know we are supporting her to keep this in place. Josie has also gained experiences connecting with the older generation and helping people in the community. She has also learnt she

can help Wendy but also fulfil her dreams by meeting new dogs and walking them regularly.”



Steve Crouch (Sussex) walks Poppy and has himself found healing:

“I live in Hastings and I have always lived in and around East Sussex. I used to be a chef, but twelve years ago I was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome and since then I have been out of work. I have also experienced chronic anxiety and two years ago I had a bad panic attack. I like fishing and I am interested in crafts, especially glass-work. I also love dogs and have had one with me for much of my life. But I cannot keep a pet where I am living at the moment.

From day one it has been my goal to get back to full health and I decided that I wanted to volunteer when I got to the stage in my wellness to do something. For my anxiety I am being encouraged to be proactive, so I talked to my DWP advisor to see what kind of work I could do from a legal standpoint and she suggested volunteering. I thought that this would be a good way to get me back into the swing of things as it would be uncomplicated, with limited pressure and commitment.

But before I could volunteer I knew I had to get to the stage of being able to commit for a few hours a week, and as I was interested in dog-walking, this would mean my being physically able to do a weekly two-hour walk. This was quite a leap of faith for me in view of the levels of fatigue I experience.

I contacted Volunteer Centre East Sussex in January 2016, and they suggested a number of dog-walking and animal-related opportunities, as well as a couple of crafts related roles. I made contact with The Cinnamon Trust and I have been a volunteer dog walker for them for about three months now. Twice a week I visit Glenda in Hastings who is unable to walk her dog herself. Glenda and her dog, Poppy, are so pleased to see me every time - it gives me such a boost!

For the first time in a long time I have a responsibility twice a week to do something. This has become a big part of my life now – and it's not just the dog-walking, it's the chat and a cup of tea with Glenda. It does us both so much good. It's such a lift to my sense of worth and my sense of being useful.



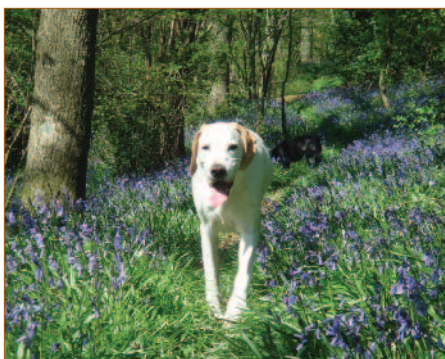
Steve and Poppy

When I started volunteering my housekeeping took a bit of a hit, however, as I struggled to balance the dog-walking with my daily chores. This is improving slowly now – it's a work in progress!

What the volunteering has helped me realise is that I can orchestrate different aspects of my life successfully. And so it has been a springboard for me to go back into further education, as I have enrolled to do a Designer Maker degree at Sussex Coast College in Hastings, starting in September."



Sarah Matthews in Surrey writes:



"Not long after my near neighbour Jenny came to live in our picturesque little Sussex village, she suffered an illness which left her unable to walk far. She had two lovely dogs – both no longer 'spring chickens' but full of life nevertheless. Cassie was a black-haired lurcher cross, enigmatic, wise, and could run like the wind. Bella was the younger of the two – about 8 years old when I first met her. A stunning white English Pointer with brown markings and the sweetest of

natures, Bella quickly became a favourite among the village's many dog-owners. When I suggested to Jenny that she contact The Cinnamon Trust to ask about help with walking Bella and Cassie, I was delighted to get the call from The Trust asking if I myself could help, as I lived the closest.

From then on, I had the great pleasure of walking Bella and Cassie once a week through fields and woods all around the village and in all seasons. My own little dog, a westie/bichon cross called Monty, tended to want to stay at home with Jenny while I took her dogs for their walk, so an added benefit of this arrangement was that Jenny and Monty have also built up a quietly close relationship.

Cassie left this world two years ago, and Bella became the sole focus and companion for Jenny. Jenny didn't believe in talking much to Bella – she didn't need to because she and Bella were totally in tune with one another. Bella was gracious, gentle and fully attentive to Jenny, always keeping an eye on her when out, and happiest settled right by her in front of the fire at home.

I carried on walking Bella on her own, and can picture her now doing her beautiful pointer stance as she alerted me to pheasants, or galloping across the field just in pure joy.

When I would go round to pick her up, she would greet me with chattering teeth and a big smile – yes, I kid you not! She also came to know that I carried her favourite gravy bones in my pocket, so at certain points on our walk it became her habit to put her nose in my pocket and not let go until she had been duly rewarded.

In the last few months she slowed up a lot as she lost strength in her hind legs, and our walks became shorter but no less pleasurable – for us both, I hope.

And then, quite recently, Bella too left this world, aged nearly 14. For Jenny, Bella is of course irreplaceable and her death has left a large hole in Jenny's life. But for my own dog Monty and me, we have gained a new dear friend in Jenny for which we are both very grateful.

Thanks to The Cinnamon Trust – and some kind locals as well – Jenny was able to enjoy the company of her beautiful Bella right up to the end.”



And a sad story with a happy ending from **Jean Nicholson** (Sussex):

“I can't honestly remember when I first got the call, asking whether I could help out short term with Alfie and Bertie while their regular dog walker (not a Trust volunteer) went on holiday. I do remember arriving at their home for the first time and being bowled over, literally, by two very excited and very large Labradors. Alfie, a chocolate and the elder (14), was definitely top dog, whilst Bertie, black and seemingly possessed, was younger (8), bigger and even more lively.

Their mum, Fran, was recovering from a major stroke, her speech and processing had been affected along with her mobility, and her two boys were central to her life and her recovery.

A short term fill in became a very long term relationship, and I grew to love both Fran and the boys, as we all got to know each other. I'm a sucker for dogs in general, but Labs have a special place, and those boys gave me so very much over the years.

To cut a very long story short, Fran suffered a devastating fall at home in October this year, and sadly she passed away the following day without regaining consciousness. Suddenly, these two by now quite elderly, unneutered, large and smelly boys needed a new home urgently. I contacted The Trust, and as ever they gave it their all.

The boys were still at Mums house, myself and Fran's wonderful neighbour were

going in and out every couple of hours to reassure them and keep them company, but it wasn't a good solution and not sustainable. Their future was looking very uncertain, given both had medical problems, and in the case of Alfie at least, palliative care was the order of the day.

The wonderful Marnie at Cinnamon found a forever foster placement for them both, but it was 350 miles away in Truro. I knew realistically it was their one chance to be together, and nothing was going to stop me getting them there, 700 mile round trip or not.

I set off at 6am, lifting Alfie into the back of the car, and we arrived some 7 hours later, me having lifted him back in several times after breaks in the journey. We were met by Lexy, who welcomed them both with open arms, and I left them, knowing Fran could rest easy and they would be together. I had, with the help of The Trust, been able to keep my promise to Fran, that if the worst happened, I would see her boys looked after."



Here's a lovely view from **John Towle** (Nottinghamshire)

"After the dreadful sadness of losing our 2 beautiful Cairn terriers, my wife, Ann and I felt unable to commit to the practical and emotional demands of owning another dog. Archie and Bumble, (brother and sister rescue dogs) had been wonderful loved family members, adored by ourselves and our son and daughter in the years that they grew up together.

As dog walker in chief (often 3 outings each day) I could never have anticipated the physical, emotional and social deprivation that would result from the absence of my 2 little canine chums. I know it's an often used cliché but there really were 2 doggy shaped gaps in my life!

Some years later I heard of The Cinnamon Trust (I wish it had been sooner!) and in March 2015 was accepted as a volunteer dog walker, somewhat nervously waiting to hear who would be my first canine customer – large, small, fierce, friendly – and what about the owner! I needn't have worried. I was invited to meet up with Molly, a miniature Jack Russell terrier and her "Mum" June. I know it is frequently stated by contented Cinnamon volunteers but in my case it is so true – "I could not have been more fortunate!"

Molly is a (now) 9 year old 'lady' who has enjoyed the most wonderful life of devoted care, love - and adventure – travelling with June and her late husband in their motorhome to locations both home and abroad. More recently June has experienced difficulty in walking extended distances and thus contacted

Cinnamon to ask if volunteers could take Molly for the long walks that she loves. I am one of a number of walkers and I know that we all love Molly as if she were our own.

Our usual venue is a local country park where I can safely let Molly run free (she never strays far) and where she socialises happily with lots of doggie friends of all shapes and sizes, and their owners, (also of all!). She is a little superstar locally – and she knows it – and people are always mistaking her for a puppy. Of course we would never reveal the lady's true age!

In the recent past Molly has had a serious operation on her hip and is still building muscle strength and flexibility. For my part I have a new hip which takes a little while to loosen up and move easily. Our walks therefore follow a predictable pattern. We both get out of the car fairly gingerly – Molly sits in the front seat with her own seat belt on – and we set off at a leisurely pace until our respective joints begin to feel more comfortable. After a 15 minute or so 'warm up' Molly turns into a perky puppy, chasing hither and thither and I well, I just try to keep up! (See photo!)



Molly

Molly's Mum, June, and I have become good friends. June is a lovely, friendly, lively minded lady who, despite suffering from arthritis, has worked so hard (with a little bit of help from friends and family) to keep her sizeable garden in immaculate condition, providing an oasis of calm, an abundance of colourful plants and a haven for a multitude of garden birds. Her enthusiasm and knowledge on all manner of horticultural and wildlife topics has inspired me to undertake similar projects in my own garden!

I've written this piece partly to share my experiences with others who derive so much enjoyment from becoming involved in the care of a wonderful diversity of pets and the friendships formed with their loving owners. Also I would hope to encourage anyone who is considering offering their services to The Cinnamon Trust but may have doubts about what they can offer – "what will be required of me, will the commitment be too burdensome, will I be capable and competent enough to make the grade, what will I get out of it?" Well, as someone who had all those doubts and anxieties, all I would say is that I have gained more than I could ever have imagined, in so many different ways – and so, if anyone out there is wishing to volunteer, in whatever capacity, please don't be deterred by doubt! Give it a go! Don't delay! Do it now!"

Bev Mitchell (East Sussex) explains the “shopping trolley technique”

“Me'n'Deb have been walking Sandy the Shih Tzu since August 2015; he was our first ever client as volunteer dog-walkers. We both work full-time, so our availability is quite limited, but we walk Sandy two evenings a week. It took us quite some time to build his trust, so that he'd be happy going out with us; initially he would keep looking back, and he'd refuse to go beyond the end of his very short front path!



Sandy

Even after we'd established Sandy's trust, we found he wasn't really a great lover of walking. In the time we've known him, Sandy has only ever bimbled a couple of hundred yards or so, but my goodness he is able to cram in a lot of sniffs and toilet activity in that short distance! (For a small dog he seems to have a remarkably large bladder!).

Unfortunately, back in the summer (when the weather was still lovely and warm!), Sandy reverted back to his old ways of not wishing to step beyond the end of his path. No amount of encouragement or biscuit bribery seemed to help, he would simply lie down and refuse to budge. Sandy appeared well enough in himself, although he is quite elderly and arthritic bless him, so we were only able to put this relapse down to stubborn apathy!

We were struggling to know quite what to do, but then Sandy's mum, Nel, told us that another lady had been using a shopping trolley to take Sandy for a walk. Apparently this lady would walk with Sandy in the trolley, then she'd pop him on the ground, and he'd quite happily walk home again. Intrigued, Deb and I decided to give this a go ourselves, and we are so glad we did!

For several weeks now, we have been using the shopping trolley technique, and Sandy seems to love it! He peeps out at the world, looking very pleased with himself, and drawing admiring glances as he goes! He will never be a great walker, a couple of hundred yards will always be his limit, but spending the outward trip in the comfort of a trolley has given him a whole new lease of life!”



"I just wanted to email you to say on behalf of Molly McMillan, thank you for all the work you do and the volunteers who give up their time to assist those pets/companions of the elderly and terminally ill.

Molly sadly passed away 12th November and will be sorely missed by her family and many friends.

My name is Lesley Bradley-Brophy and I am a volunteer for Cinnamon Trust, having moved to Scotland I became a volunteer be it only a year ago and was placed with Molly and her dog Jody, I wasn't sure what I was going to meet in Jody a Parson Jack Russell Cross, he was described as feisty, having Jack Russells of my own I know what feisty meant! But Jody had the kindest temperament, not a bad bone in his body for a 9/10 year old he was very playful and loved his ball, the only thing I had to watch out for was he would want to play with anyone who had a ball. Jody has now gone to live with Molly's sister and I know she will love Jody as much as Molly did.



Molly with Lesley's boys

Molly's funeral was yesterday 15th November and The Cinnamon Trust was mentioned in her eulogy, Molly was so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust, I know she wanted to write to you but I don't think she ever got round to putting pen to paper.

As a volunteer it has given me great satisfaction that Molly could keep her beloved Jody because he was walked regularly and when Molly was taken into hospital she knew Jody was taken care of and he was there when she returned home.

So thank you Cinnamon Trust, I look forward to the next person who needs assistance with their beloved companion/friend.

I have attached a photo of Jody with my two boys they all got on really well."



And this is from **Jack Hollyman** in Essex

"I have always loved animals but, unfortunately, I work long hours in London. I grew up with animals and couldn't help thinking how tragic it would be having a



Jack Hollyman with Poppy and Frankie

life companion and then having to give them up through old age or illness. That was the reason I got involved with the magnificent Cinnamon Trust.

I walk Frankie, a Westie-cross (4) and Poppy, a Cockerpoo (3).

When I started to walk Frankie, it was because Linda, Frankie's mum, had leukaemia and John, Frankie's dad, has Parkinson's. Sadly, Linda passed away last month but I know in my heart that she passed knowing her boy will be well looked after thanks to John and The Trust.

Poppy's dad, Terry, has a lung condition and her mum, Brenda, has bad knees. Poppy had a rough start to her life and was kept in a shed with no walks, when a friend of Brenda's noticed and immediately found Poppy a new home. Poppy now has two of the most loving parents a dog could ask for.

Poppy and Frankie get on ever so well, despite Poppy being scared of anything that moves!

Frankie is a lovely old boy and nothing bothers him. Recently, a young lab was scared and started to nip at him. Frankie simply licked him and all was well. Poppy is oblivious to the world. She has the face of a pet who is happy with every day, waddling along, occasionally looking up at you though her floppy fringe.

I love to walk them and their parents show their appreciation every time. Seeing their excitement every time I turn up to walk them is enough to put a smile on anyone's face.

I just hope, when I am old or frail, that The Cinnamon Trust will still be around to look after my cats and dogs - I'm sure I will have plenty!"



Here's a brilliant view from **Erin Carter** (Hertfordshire)

"Back in January 2015 I decided I wanted to volunteer as a dog walker but wasn't sure how to go about it. After a couple of calls to various charities one of them recommended The Cinnamon Trust.

I got in touch with the team and it just so happened there was an appeal for support quite local to me so I completed a registration form and was shortly

approved for dog walking duty – happy days!

The details were given to me; a lady called Patricia who needed help walking her Bernese Mountain dog. Two words stood out for me during that phone call: MOUNTAIN DOG! I had to jump on the internet straight away to see what breed of dog this was and after seeing the images I wondered if it would be the dog taking me for the walk instead! Keen to get started I called Patricia during my lunch break that day and we arranged for me to pop in after work to meet her and Maddie the Bernese.



Maddie

The pictures I'd seen of the breed on the internet didn't prepare me for seeing Maddie in the flesh. The front door was opened and I was greeted by a huge happy bouncy mass of black furr! Maddie seemed so excited – who was this new person to sniff, nuzzle and show my paws to? Patricia invited me in for a cup of tea and she told me a bit about herself, her history of dog breeding, the previous Bernese dogs she's owned and of course about Maddie who had not left my side since sitting down. After a while we popped Maddie's lead on and I took her out for a short walk to see how we got on together. To my surprise Maddie was very obedient and walked by my side the whole time and when we got back I immediately arranged another date with Pat to come again.

I wasn't sure how long I would be supporting Pat for but we kept arranging dates for me to come after work or at the weekends to see her and Maddie. Luckily there is a big field nearby so that became our go-to place for walks, it's generally quiet when we go and rarely do I encounter another dog walker. It's very relaxing to walk with Maddie and a great way to wind down after working in an office all day.

During summer I got a call from The Cinnamon Trust to say Pat had suffered a fall resulting in a serious hip injury and was in hospital. I thought of Maddie and who would be looking after her as I knew that would be Pat's first concern but The Cinnamon Trust advised a friend of Pat's had taken Maddie and would look after her. I asked if they were allowed to tell me which hospital Pat had been taken to and thankfully I was given the information so planned to visit the next day. Having known Pat for about 6 months I knew she had no immediate family nearby and

wasn't sure whether anyone else had accompanied her to the hospital so I popped to the supermarket and stocked up on some hospital-stay essentials which I hoped would help and went to visit her as much as I could.

It was so sad to see Pat go through all that and be without Maddie for that amount of time but thankfully she continued to get better and was eventually back at home. She's still recovering but has improved so much and I think being at home and having Maddie back definitely helps.

In December I found out from Pat's friend it was her birthday, the little minx had kept that quiet! I turned up after work as normal but came armed with a mini cake and candle with the aim of singing 'Happy Birthday' as Pat opened the door. Sadly the weather was not on my side and I couldn't get the candle to light plus I had a big Bernese Mountain Dog round my feet to contend with at the same time! Trying to be discreet I stepped in to Pat's house walking backwards so she wouldn't see and managed to light the candle – it was rather funny but I like to think that these little things bring a smile to her face.

Later that month as we were booking the next few walking dates in the diary Pat skimmed past 25th December so I said straight away "I'll come on Christmas Day"! I have a big family and various Christmas traditions to carry out but nothing would stop me from coming to see Pat and Maddie that day and she really appreciated the visit. My mum came over with me for the first time and met Pat and Maddie which was lovely as I talk about them a lot.

We have now just celebrated our first anniversary this month. I brought Pat some flowers and she gave me some of the gluten free biscuits she knows I love along with the most wonderful card. She'd written such heartfelt words it just goes to show how much The Cinnamon Trust volunteers make a difference.

I can't imagine not visiting Pat or walking Maddie now. Pat is so grateful for the little odd jobs I help out with and Maddie is such a joy to walk it really is one of the best feelings and I would encourage everyone to do it!"



Simon Bradford (Bucks) helps Sam with the wonderful **Staunton**

"I was introduced to The Cinnamon Trust by a colleague who had already volunteered to walk Staunton, a lovely Golden Retriever, who lives with his owner Pam less than a mile away from where I work. My work involves being away from home four days a week, so I was interested in using some of my spare time in the evenings to help out with walking Staunton. Good exercise for him and me!

Now that I've been walking Staunton for a couple of months I have easily adapted my evening routine to pop along and take him out around the lake and walkways where he lives. He absolutely loves going out – he bounces all over the place when Pam opens the door to let him out. What a lovely welcome! - it just makes me happy seeing him react that way.

We usually go walking for about 25 – 30 mins, enough time for him to do his business and have a good old sniff around. He loves meeting other people too – such a trusting and good natured dog. Several people know him already and give him a good cuddle when they see him – he's spreading the happiness as far as he can!



Simon and Staunton

I am really enjoying my volunteering with Cinnamon so much so that I've put notices up on our intranet at work and 5 or 6 colleagues have already contacted Cinnamon for details on how to join. Like me, they had never heard of such an organisation but absolutely love the idea of giving some time to help out a dog and its owner. It's one of the few ways of helping someone that also gives me a good feeling each time I go out. Everyone's a winner!"

.....

And Pam says

"I had kept dogs for all my life and was delighted to be offered a dog to help me with my disability.

I was introduced to a golden retriever and it was love at first sight. We struggled a bit at first and I was not at all sure that it was going to work but now I don't even have to ask Staunton what I need he just knows.

When I was out with Staunton in my wheelchair I became very ill with my heart it was after that occasion that I decided to contact The Cinnamon Trust. At first a lovely couple came and helped me out with 3 walks a week but as winter drew near I thought I would need a bit more help. The Trust were wonderful and have kept me supplied with dog walkers.

I could not have managed without the help of all those wonderful people. Through all my tests and health problems Cinnamon Trust and its volunteers have been there and made it far less stressful than it would have been.

Staunton has also been there for me every step of the way especially for cuddles when needed.

I must say a big thank you to all those that have helped me through this difficult time but in particular my wonderful dog walkers.”



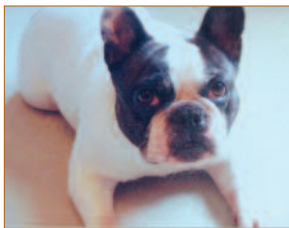
This picture doesn't need a story!!



Jackie Harrison-Stanley and friend **Rosie** in Lincolnshire walk **Toby** for her mum, **Jean** and **Mitzi** the cat just has to go too!



This is sad from **Marilyn Wright** (Sussex):



“Reading the various stories in The Cinnamon Trust Newsletter I know that a strong bond forms between the walker and dog and also the owner. This has also happened to me with Bubbles and Val Roberts.

Three years ago I was introduced to Bubbles, a 5 year old French bulldog who was deaf. To say Bubbles was a character was an understatement! Val had not been able to walk Bubbles for a while due to health problems and Bubbles had her own agenda about walking. It was slow going at first as Bubbles kept on stopping and rolling on her back and also sometimes jumping in the air and turning round, her way of saying no and having fun with me. Jan and Jim were also walkers for Bubbles and they had the same behaviour from Bubbles, it was not just reserved for me.

Val was a great instructor in how to handle Bubbles and she was soon able to walk without the need for treats to stop her rolling and jumping. She was soon taking pleasure from her walks signified by her piggy bottom wiggle! My walks were then able to expand and go slightly further afield and with the use of an extendable lead

Bubbles had more freedom to explore. Once the walk was finished I would sit with Val and enjoy a drink and an exchange of news. I would give news of the outside world and Val would expand my knowledge of dogs and thus enabling me to understand Bubbles a lot more. Val also had brilliant communication with Bubbles, with both of them reading each other's facial expressions and lip reading. Val also used body language to communicate with Bubbles. This worked on a two-way basis and proved extremely instructive. This opened up a surprising amount of information for me and this was helped by the book, which Val lent to me, Talking with Dogs by Turig Rugas. I was in awe of the deep level of communication between Val and Bubbles.

Unfortunately, after walking Bubbles for some time, she developed a lump on her leg, which proved a virulent form of cancer, and when I last visited Bubbles we sat in the garden and said our goodbyes. I am still seeing Val, as she is now a friend and a font of knowledge both canine and human."



Quite coincidentally, another Bubbles features in **Christine Erskine's** view from Essex:

"When I saw an advert locally asking for dog walkers, it set me thinking – I love my cairn terrier dearly and would hate to be parted from her due to old age or ill health. I am lucky to still be fit and healthy enough to walk her around our wonderful seaside town of Brightlingsea. Since having been accepted by The Trust and introduced to Rosemary and her two long haired dachshunds, my pleasure has increased beyond measure.



Christine with Bubbles and Honey

Rosemary has had a stroke and is unable to walk Bubbles and Honey, so whenever it is just me and my Tilly going for a walk on our own, I pop in and pick up our two new friends. This is usually four or five times a week and Rosemary is quite happy with this loose arrangement.

As they are quite shy dogs who had not been out for a while, I took them on their own for a couple of walks before introducing them to Tilly. She is quite an independent character and has a mind of her own, so while she tolerates other dogs, she prefers to do her own thing and explore on her own. Most of the time Tilly roams off the lead and I have Bubbles and Honey on a joint lead, so am still able to keep control of Tilly when necessary.

I am always greeted with great excitement by my charges when I go to pick them up. There is always barking and a 'me first' attitude to having their leads on.

Bubbles seems to think it is easier if she lies on her back! Honey wears a harness because she is too tiny for a collar, so we have nicknamed this her 'bra' much to everyone's delight.

Tilly waits in the car for us and after a quick nose greeting she turns and looks out of the window. All three of them sit patiently on the back seat, which has a suitable hammock covering for them. It is only a few minutes' drive to our favourite walk along by the sea. After a good bit of sniffing to pick up messages on the greensward, we trundle along the prom and are greeted by all sorts of friends, old and new. We get lots of comments about two tiny dogs together and one of the recent ones was 'is that Buy One Get One Free!' It saddens me how many children are scared of dogs and I am always ready to stop and encourage children to relate to them. They are so docile that most children overcome their fears quite quickly, much to the adult's relief.

Recently I have been looking after a friend's dog while she is on holiday, so I have been taking four dogs down the front. No wonder I am getting the nickname 'Dog Lady'!

I have got to know Rosemary's daughter now and was very surprised to find that these dear little dogs are eleven years old – no wonder Rosemary is so attached to them. In a very short time, I have become very attached to them myself and cannot imagine walking without them. So, long may this wonderful friendship last."



Here's an aah! moment for you! **Sue Sheppard** in Essex writes:

"My involvement with The Cinnamon Trust came about for a number of reasons. I had heard of the charity and really believed in the value of keeping beloved pets with their owners wherever possible even when poor health or advanced age made it challenging. Having the unconditional love of a pet gives you a reason to carry on even when life gets you down and all else seems negative. I also wished to 'give to the local community' and increasingly volunteering is promoted as a way to maintain your own well-being. Having lost both my parents to terminal illness in recent years after a long term caring role there were gaps in my life. My teenage daughter Ellie needed to get some voluntary experience under her belt for her Duke of Edinburgh award and as an animal lover this seemed a good option for her as well and an experience we could share. Finally, I was seriously considering getting a dog of my own and thought that the experience of helping out with someone else's pet dog would inform my decision.

We met Poppy and her owner, Wendy and started dog walking in August 2016. Wendy was a real animal lover and had taken in Poppy as a rescue dog as a young

puppy. Poppy is now ten years old. Sadly Wendy was now housebound and in chronic pain and unable to walk her beloved dog. We felt privileged to step in and have such a wonderful Labrador to take out and about. The



Poppy and Marnie



only problem we ever have is encouraging Poppy away from the bottom of a tree after she has chased a squirrel or two. Although occasionally Poppy also headed for a muddy stream or rolled in fox poo the walks have always been fun. We became part of the team on the weekly rota and this continues. Poppy lives near a super wooded area in Essex and it is a place where you meet some friendly dog walkers and their companions.

After a few weeks of walking Poppy her owner was suddenly taken poorly and admitted to hospital and we found ourselves stepping in to foster her for two weeks. This fell at the same time as us picking up our own Labrador puppy Marnie aged 8 weeks. Poppy became a surrogate mum and eased Marnie separating from her mum and litter. She was our built in babysitter! I hadn't intended having a new puppy and a foster dog but I like a challenge!

Now Marnie the puppy is older she always joins us on Poppy's walks which continue 6 months on from our first meeting. The puppy is always so excited to see Poppy and they spend hours exploring the woods together. They regularly meet other dogs and I've made new friends. Wendy loves seeing the puppy too and has enjoyed watching her grow up.

Poppy is losing weight which is needed as she loves her food, like many Labradors. We also try to bring her down to our little coastal town when we can as she loves to be by the sea and has had a few swims.

So we have achieved so much – enough hours to meet the Duke of Edinburgh requirements for my daughter, a great fitness routine, new friends on walks, the impetus to get our own puppy and the bonus of seeing Poppy's maternal instinct in those early days and the ongoing fun the two dogs have. The journey continues and we have become a friend to Wendy as well who always loves to chat about the dogs and catch up on news. I think Poppy will stay part of our lives for quite some time. We have played a small part in keeping her with her owner, as there is a wider team of neighbours and dog walkers, but it has been great to feel we

have been amongst those who have made a difference.

I will continue to support the Cinnamon Trust and urge others to do the same.”



When dog walking progresses to short term foster and then forever **Sharon Marks** in Sussex says:

“I knew from the first moment Shadow dashed into the room, moving in a blur as he ran around and across my feet, making it almost impossible to catch him to put on his lead, that we would get along. Shadow’s owner Dee had warned me that he was an enthusiastic walker, but nothing had prepared me for the brown and white bundle of energy I had been entrusted with.

I started to walk Shadow every day during my lunch break at work, and our routine was very quickly established – straight out the door, barking at the pigeons who gathered outside the window; down to the Brighton seafront, barking at the seagulls that swooped overhead; and along the path of the beach, barking at cyclists, birds, cars – even bees. One of Shadow’s great joys in life is barking.

Soon after I started walking him, Dee became unwell and needed regular stays in hospital. We had Shadow overnight, sometimes for whole weekends and eventually for weeks at a time – although Dee was always very quick to call The Cinnamon Trust to let them know when she was back home, so that Shadow could join her again. When he first came home with us he was very quiet – none of the signature barking that I had been telling my husband Dave about. Our own dog CJ was quite suspicious at first, hiding her own toys and not allowing him on her bed, but when we started walking them together, they learned that they had a mutual love – hunting.

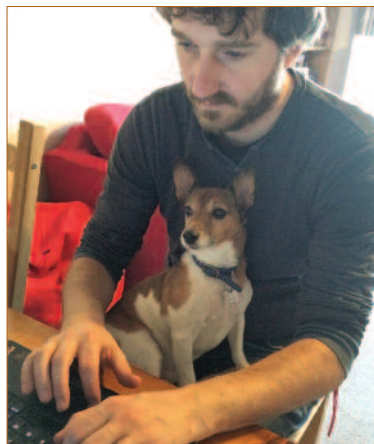
Shadow is an amazing little hunter. He is very adept at catching field mice, much to my dismay and CJ’s thrill – all safely returned to the wild, usually in response to my startled screams. The biggest fright he’s ever given us was when he emerged last summer from the long grasses of the South Downs with what looked very much like a poisonous adder in his mouth – it may have been just a grass snake, but we didn’t hang around to find out! Now when we walk, he scans the surroundings for pheasants and deer, signalling to CJ when he sees something he would like her to go after, and off she leaps, running into the trees or across the field until she finds what he has been telling her about. They make a great team, and their outdoor antics have definitely helped them to live together better. She will even allow him on to her bed these days (although will not go as far as sharing toys).

His other little quirk is that, wherever there is a human sitting down, Shadow wants

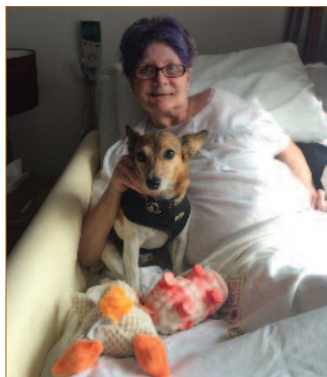
to sit on that human. Dave regularly works from home, and he has gained a new supervisor in Shadow, who will sit contentedly for hours on his knee, checking on his progress. If you dare for a moment to sit down – to tie your shoelaces, for example – Shadow will be on your knee before you blink.

When Dee eventually moved into a care home, we were happy to keep Shadow as a long term foster placement. We all visit Dee regularly, and she always has a new present or treat for Shadow to take back with him. She loves hearing stories about his new adventures, finding out about his new enemies (at the moment he has taken very much against the bin men), and she loves to show him off the other residents and staff in her new home.

The whole experience of fostering a dog has been amazing. The support provided by all of the staff at the Cinnamon Trust, but particularly by Deborah, with phone calls, emails and messages, being endlessly helpful and encouraging, has been brilliant. It's been lovely to be able to provide peace of mind for Dee, who we have gotten to know very well, and both Dee and Shadow now feel like part of our extended family. We are so pleased that Dee will always be able to say that she is Shadow's "Mummy".



Shadow supervises Dave



Shadow visits mum Dee



From Derbyshire **Mandy Hurd** tells of Alfie's adventures:

"Christine, Alfie's owner was rushed into hospital and we received a call from the Trust asking if we could step in to look after him. Of course!

On the way home, Alfie just wouldn't get off my lap! He kept rolling over wanting a tummy tickle, licking me and then doing it again! It was pure love and loyalty at first sight! Next we took the dogs for a walk around the grounds of Elvaston Castle where Alfie was looking down every rabbit hole he saw. Our dog Dinky and Alfie got on so well together and became friends. That same night, we reclined our settee back and the next minute Dinky jumped up laid down and accepted Alfie's head on his shoulder! He soon settled into our home and followed Dinky everywhere.



Alfie

Alfie's next new adventure was going on holiday in our folding camper at Fairlight Wood Caravan Club Site near Hastings in East Sussex.

Having a walk in the woods on the camp site every morning looking for rabbits and chasing squirrels with Dinky he settled into our camping routine rather well! The dogs slept on the same bed together, ran along Broadstairs, Hastings, Camber Sands and Pett Level beaches together.

Finally we took him home and it was lovely to see Christine showing so much love and affection to her dog."



And **Christine Pratt** in Cornwall stepped up for Crumpet and James and what a gorgeous photo!



James and Crumpet

"One afternoon in September I received a 'phone call from The Cinnamon Trust asking if I could urgently foster two little pugs, as their owner had been rushed into hospital. Luckily I was in a position to say yes on the spot, and my daughter Katie was able to go and collect them immediately.

The two year old pugs, Crumpet and James turned out to be the easiest and nicest dogs to foster. Considering they had had quite a shock and sudden upheaval, they were remarkably laid back and happy. We have our own dog Billy, a rescued Lurcher, as well as an elderly cat and free range chickens, but James and Crumpet took it all in their stride. They quickly made friends with Billy and although the cat didn't like them one little bit, they didn't try to chase her or bother her.

be let off their leads. They never strayed very far from us, but enjoyed a bit of rock climbing and paddling in the sea.

We had no experience of pugs and thought they were funny looking creatures, but found that they were great fun to be with and always drew a lot of attention on the beach with everyone wanting to pet them. They seemed to love all people, and liked nothing better than snuggling up on your lap. They were also extremely greedy and not at all fussy with their food, so were very easy to look after.

After just over a week their owner Elaine came out of hospital, and she was able to have them back shortly afterwards. We were sorry to see them go because they were so lovable and the whole family had enjoyed their quirky little ways. My daughter had fallen in love with them so completely, that she applied to become a Cinnamon Trust volunteer, and now walks them every week before work, and has become good friends with their owner Elaine.”



Gill Thomason (Northants) offers a “second home” to Barney, she says:

“David has been in hospital since the end of last year and I have had Barney for him since then. Barney gets on with my Labrador cross Holly, she ignores him mostly but he follows her around and considers her his leader. She does drop her guard occasionally and will have a game with him but then goes back to being her usual superior self. Barney is a lovely dog and very friendly with everyone, he has not put a foot wrong and has been a very good boy. My daughter and I have taken Barney to Danetree hospital to visit three times now and each time he is welcomed onto the ward, there are always lots of people happy to see him as well as his Dad. The nurse even lifts him on the bed so Barney and David can have a cuddle. I can tell the visits mean a lot to David and he always says it is such a relief to know Barney is being cared for by someone. I will have Barney for as long as needed , he is always welcome here, it is his second home – even tho’ Holly is teaching him a few bad habits such as howling when the phone rings and sleeping in my favourite chair! My sixteen year old grandson, James, formed an instant bond with Barney who gets very excited when James visits.”



We now have 1,042 in lifelong care, so let’s catch up with a few of them.

Caroline Tapsell in Cornwall has a multi CT household! She writes:

“About 6 years ago I was very ill and my main concern at the time was the care of my much loved, brain damaged, dog Harry. I learnt about The Cinnamon Trust



Jamie



Hattie

through a friend and was all prepared to make arrangements for him with the charity. Thankfully, I survived but a short time later Harry died and I was without a dog for well over a year. When I was able to have another I was determined to care for more mature dogs, who so often struggle to find new homes so I contacted The Cinnamon Trust. It was one of the best things I have ever done. Within a few weeks I was offered two delightful Yorkshire Terriers called Max and Molly who came from the Manchester area to be with me. Molly became very ill soon after she arrived and it was not thought that she would survive beyond Christmas of that year. But she did and despite her age began to thrive. However, a few months into the New Year Max became ill and died very suddenly. Molly was truly bereft and I agreed with The Trust to take on a new dog as her companion. He was a 9 year old wire haired Dachsund called Jamie who had been orphaned by the death of his adoring owner in Devon. The first

couple of weeks were quite a challenge although there were moments of humour. Molly ignored him completely and would sit totally silent and still like the Sphinx but her eyes followed him everywhere. In the first week she refused to acknowledge his presence on the planet! Jamie was very distressed by the many changes in his life but as a result of plenty of cuddles and a regular routine he soon began to settle in. Molly suddenly decided that he was good news and by the end of the second week they were curled up in the basket together. They became inseparable. Sadly Molly died, age 16, last September. Despite being very small she was a huge character and ruled the roost and the house was very quiet without her so I contacted The Trust and offered to take on another small dog. In October Hattie arrived. She is a Bichon Frise and between 6 and 7 years old. Her history is quite interesting as she was found abandoned with a very overgrown coat nearly three years ago. She was adopted by a lovely elderly lady who last year regrettably had to go into a care home. Hattie has settled in remarkably quickly and she is full of energy and quite mischievous. She enjoyed breaking into Christmas presents and her favourite trick over the New Year was to chew the foil lids off the Prosecco bottles but thankfully she got no further! She loves and requires longs walks so Jamie and I are now enjoying a lot more exercise. Hattie

and Jamie have been companions for several months and get along really well although it is amusing to see them together as they are so very different. Jamie is very laid back – a slippers and pipe dog so a bit of a Bing Crosby type and Hattie with her blonde curls and blingy collars is more of a Marilyn Monroe. They are both very popular with my friends and they make my life complete.”



Snoopy has made a difficult time better for **Pamela** and **Geoff Artley** in Cambridgeshire. Pam says:

“Geoff and I took early retirement in 2013, Geoff was 61 and I was 56.

We decided to 'live the dream' and sold our home in Bedfordshire, moving to Pickering in North Yorkshire, purchasing a beautiful cottage built in 1835. We moved North in April 2013.

It became clear to me quite quickly that something was wrong with my husband, Geoff. His personality had changed, tasks that he could do without a thought became difficult. Friends and colleagues had mentioned their concerns about subtle changes they had noticed in Geoff's behaviour and personality, prior to his retirement, but I had suggested it was simply the stress of winding down from a high pressured job as a Principle Chemical Engineer and that we would be fine.

In June I managed to get Geoff to the GP and as a result of a very long consultation, MRI and CT brain scans were undertaken, followed by a neurology appointment. The diagnosis was that Geoff, aged 61 had a disease that we had never heard of called Fronto-Temporal-Dementia. No treatment, no cure with a life expectancy of 4 to 8 years.



Geoff with Snoopy

Of course, this diagnosis had a massive impact on both of us, but when we picked ourselves up, we decided to think positively and review our 'Bucket Lists'. As a result throughout 2013, 2014 and early 2015 we achieved probably more than if we had stayed well and lived to our 90's !! It became clear, that as Geoff's health

continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate we should seriously consider moving back to be near to family and friends and so our beloved cottage was put on the market.

In November 2015 she was sold and we moved into rented accommodation in Cambridgeshire. I then began our search for a new home and found a perfect bungalow for us that we purchased in April 2016.

Work was completed before moving in to make it fully disabled friendly and we moved into our new abode in June 2016. We had talked often about getting a dog as a companion for Geoff. We had never had a dog before, as we both worked long hours, I worked shifts and Geoff was away a lot with his job. We had cats instead!

Geoff's health has deteriorated even more and he now has Parkinsons and a further diagnosis of Progressive Supra-nuclear- Palsy (PSP). He is dependent on my support for everything and has lost mobility.

We now sleep in separate bedrooms due to Geoff's complex medical needs and so he can become quite distressed and anxious at night and requires a lot of reassurance.

I was introduced to The Cinnamon Trust and the process began to register, get the standard checks and look for a companion for Geoff.

Snoopy needed a new home because, sadly his owner was very poorly and unable to care for him anymore. Marnie rang us and started to give us a history. Snoopy is an 8 year old Beagle - My son is called Charlie Brown and so I giggled at the thought of introducing a Beagle called Snoopy into our home. (No, Charlie Brown is far too grown up to live with us now)!

Snoopy's owner is a retired Police Officer. So am I. Snoopy is laid back and shows no interest in Cats. Phew!! Because our main concern about getting a dog was 'How would our cat called Smoggy react'?

Well Snoopy has settled quickly into his new home. He sleeps with Geoff at night. Geoff has become much calmer at night and (apart from Smoggy Cat waking me up to go out and come in at night) my nights have fewer interruptions meaning I am getting more sleep.

Smoggy is now getting used to the idea of sharing his home with another 4 legged friend and they even went nose to nose for a 'sniff' last night with no upsets.

We walk Snoopy together, Geoff holding Snoopy's lead and me pushing Geoff's 'chariot' which means more exercise and fresh air for all of us. Snoopy is so well

behaved (apart from barking at the postman) and already he is making a big difference to our lives.

Thank You Cinnamon Trust for helping to home Snoopy and for finding my husband, what we hope will be his life-long companion.”



And in Cornwall **Shelley** takes a ride with **David** and **Julia Gore**:

“David and I used to enjoy little bike rides in and around this beautiful part of the world. But since having Shelley, we have been unable to do so as it meant leaving her at home (which we hate doing).

Anyhow, I suggested that we get one of those children buggies that are towed behind a bike. Unknown to me, David decided to put his engineering skills to good use and this is what he brought home last week

The wheels and chassis are from a wheel chair. There are anti-roll bars on each side. The entire back, top, sides are covered in Perspex so that she can see what's going on. The base is a baker's tray, covered in foam with the tops covered in pipe lagging. This ensures that there are no sharp edges anywhere. There is a net that comes from the back all the way over to enclose her inside. Finally she is anchored by a harness.



We took her for her first ride last Sunday afternoon, down in Hayle, on King George's walk. She loved it, and so did the people seeing her. This means that we can go further afield, taking Miss Shelley with us and we can all have a lovely day out

She has brought such pleasure into our lives we are so very lucky to have her. And well done to my husband for finding a solution to our bike rides!!!

Thank you Cinnamon Trust for allowing us to have HRH Miss Shelley!!! (She is now practicing her Royal Wave).”



This tribute from **Tom King** in Essex to the beloved **Henry** will bring a smile

“Henry's origins are obscure, and somewhat mind-boggling to contemplate. He was acquired from a rescue centre by Amy, who lived in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. She had been told no-one else would take on the strange, tubby dog with Queen Ann legs. She had no such qualms.

Amy was in her late eighties at the time. The arrangement, as so often, worked wonders for both parties. Henry helped Amy to stay fit and active. Ditto the other way round. They enjoyed five-mile walks together and as Amy's nephew's partner was a local vet, Henry enjoyed VIP medical attention.

Cinnamon Trust entered the scene after Amy had an accident, leaving her unable to walk any great distance. For the next year or so, Henry was walked by Cinnamon volunteers.

Sadly, Amy's health continued to deteriorate and Henry was lovingly fostered by volunteer Sally during at least one hospital stay.

Finally, she moved into a nursing home, where, to her great regret, Henry could not accompany her.

The Trust set about finding Henry a long-term foster home, but he was not an easy dog to place. His appearance, to say the least, was unconventional. One lady expressed an interest in taking him on. Then she saw his photograph and changed her mind. Henry had a prize-winning personality, but personalities are not something that you can photograph.



It was all quite different when you met Henry in the flesh. He was endearing from 100 yards distance, and an instant canine curiosity. I have never seen another dog who looked anything like Henry. Nor had anyone else. God broke the mould alright when Henry's mum pupped.

He did not fit any known, or even imaginable, canine template. He was the ultimate mutt. Any Cruft's judge viewing him would have

had to lie down in a darkened room to recover.

The most obvious trait in Henry was corgi, but if so, then he was the corgi version of the Incredible Hulk. There may well have been a strong infusion of German Shepherd there as well. Shepherd and corgi? Somebody queried whether a guard dog at Buckingham Palace might have ... well, you can imagine the scenario.

When Henry was out walking, passers-by would constantly stop and exclaim: "What on earth is that?" He was a curiosity all his life. But there were also other reasons why he stopped people in their tracks. He was notable for his wonderful doggy grin, which was a genuine expression of his good humour and friendliness. His prime claim to fame, though, lay in his maverick ears. He could keep one up and one down. But the art of keeping both ears up, or both ears down, simultaneously, always evaded him, much to his consternation. This physical foible always caused great entertainment, to strangers and friends alike. Once, while driving, I found myself tailgated. Henry was sitting in the back of the car, looking out of the rear window. He had simply mesmerised the people in the car behind.

I came to know Henry when I helped out Cinnamon volunteer Sally while he was being fostered. Eventually, although I was not short of dogs already, I took Henry on as a long-term foster dog. I knew him for a lovable personality and valued his strengths as a diligent guard-dog. However, it was in the role of faithful companion that he came to shine. My own role, as Cinnamon Trust long-term Henry carer, is one that I have never for a moment regretted.

I shall miss Henry badly, but he was old - about 18 years - had lived a more than full life, and was ready to depart. May the same be said of all us humans when our time comes.

If there is an afterlife, then on arrival, I will have an immediate question to ask. Not the meaning of existence, which, no doubt, lots of others will be demanding to know. No, my question is simpler – what were the remarkable circumstances of Henry's birth?

Until then, I will just have to be content with the memory of this born waif, with his ridiculous body and his lovable personality. When you lose a dear pet, you feel on a wavelength with all those others who have had a recent similar experience. To all of you, my heart goes out, because you have lost something more than just a friend.

Dogs, eh? They walk through life alongside us (with the odd diversion to chase a squirrel), they share our joys and pleasures, and they are there to buffet the pains

and disappointments. Officially, I was caring for Henry, but of course, in reality, he was caring for me. The Henrys of this world should never be taken for granted.

So thank you, Henry, for sharing part of your long and well-spent life at this address, and thank you, Cinnamon Trust, for all the Henrys and other four legged creatures who find a future under the spread of your wing, and all the humans who do so under your other wing.”



And **Gelert** has been on his travels again with **Bill Pringle** (Devon) who writes:

“Just thought I would give you a latest update on our adventures.

Attached is a photo of us last summer when we had two nights stay in central Paris, not far from Notre Dame. Our little dog has done very well. Really not at all phased by the traffic, crowds and general hubbub or by being walked off his feet. He's a tough character and very resilient.

One thing I knew he would not care for was getting on a boat - for a sightseeing cruise on the Seine. He's never comfortable if he can't feel solid ground beneath his feet: wooden or movable bridges, pontoons - even gratings on the street. Once he was on board he settled and enjoyed the ride!



Again he's been a big hit with everyone we've met and has been as good as gold. (Telling his French cousins where to get off doesn't count as bad behaviour).

Our boy is 13 tomorrow and still going strong! However, I have to say Gelert is beginning to show signs of his advancing



years. Still as energetic as ever but with some reduced agility.

He does have a bit of a leg problem and now makes a few practice runs before jumping on the bed (!) whereas before he always made the leap like a champion show-jumper. Occasionally he gets a bit worried about getting down from the bed - alerting me with a unique "yelp" which I've never heard before – to ask for assistance.

I suppose we just have to accept that Gelert is no longer a puppy. But, apart from the foregoing, I'd say he's in pretty good nick for his age!"



Mary Ryan in Cornwall has been adopted by **Sophie** and **Diesel**! Mary says:

"One evening as I walked through the grounds of Travarra Nursing Home to my car I met a woman and her dog whom I seen several times before but had never spoken to. As I admired a very gorgeous but indifferent West Highland Terrier - I was told about The Cinnamon Trust.

A charity for people in their last years and their much loved pets. A network of volunteers "hold hands" with owners to provide vital loving care for their pets, keeping them together, walking a dog, fostering pets, etc. How wonderful!

My husband Steve had been seriously ill for many years and no longer lived at home. I visited him daily, but, I was for the most part alone as my adult children had flown the nest. I was very interested in the possibility of fostering a dog; My golden retriever Finnegan had died earlier in the year aged 16yrs and although I still missed her I felt it was time to offer a dog in need a loving home. Armed with The Cinnamon Trust contact details I felt quite excited as I headed for my car.

The following morning, I telephoned The Cinnamon Trust, and spoke to Moira; She was lovely, she talked me through the process and my experience of taking care of dogs. The conversation was very positive. I also talked to Marnie about a couple of West Highland Terriers called Sophie and Diesel whose owner was terminally ill and they needed a home. I put the phone down full of hope of having not one but two additional family members. A few days later I spoke to Angie who was taking care of Sophie and Diesel and enthusiastically arranged for them to visit and check out their potential new home.



Sophie and Diesel with Steve

Unfortunately, Steve's condition deteriorated, he was rushed to hospital and I had to cancel the visit. I very reluctantly told Angie to look for new foster parents for Sophie and Diesel.

A week later as I kept vigil by Steve's hospital bedside I texted Angie to enquire about Sophie and Diesel. Had they found a new home? Were they happy? I was told that they were still looking for their forever home. I felt that they were meant for me and arranged a visit.

I fell in love with them the moment I saw them. For me they were the most beautiful West Highland Terriers I had ever seen and obviously the smartest! I loved the way they sat, the way they turned their heads when I spoke to them, I loved the way they walked, they made me giggle, I was totally smitten. I knew they had found their forever home, if Angie deemed me and my home worthy. I passed the home visit and Sophie and Diesel moved in.

Shortly after, Steve died and during a very emotional time Sophie and Diesel helped me cope only in a way that they could.

Diesel can bound the stairs with ease; Sophie's little legs make it harder for her to get lift off, but she never gives up and when she reaches the top she ignores the cheers and praise she receives and ambles down the landing with a wag of her tail. They both love food; Sophie doesn't even pause for breath! Diesel nudges for cuddles and likes to sneak on to the settee thinking I won't notice even though I'm sitting on it too. They adore going for walks and frequently return covered in mud. They like to chase balls but never give them back, instead they like to demolish them! They bark at the TV; I will never again be able to watch nature programmes (a small price to pay). They furiously announce the post man and attack the night air when I let them out. They argue for space in front of the log burner and take it in turn to have the coveted space. I said that under no circumstances could they come on my bed, it happened eventually as we all knew it would.

Bringing Sophie and Diesel into my home has changed my life. Their unconditional love, unsinkable spirit and unabashed smiles and biggest welcomes has improved my well-being in many ways. I mean, how can I not beam waking up to smiley faces and wagging tails? I now wonder who rescued who! Sophie and Diesel are not my whole life, but they make my life whole."

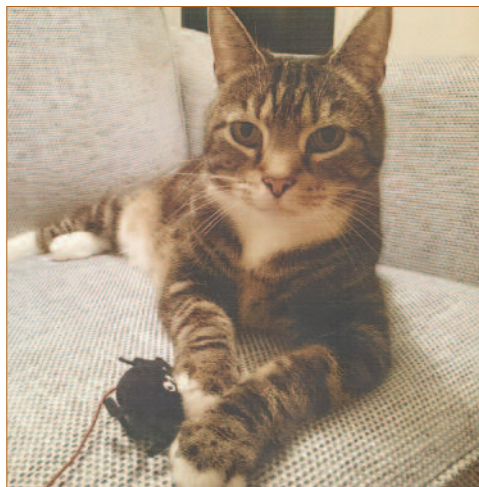


The gorgeous **Mr. Tibbs** has captivated **Helen Simmons** (Sussex) who writes:

"Mr Tibbs came to live with me in October when very sadly his owner became

terminally ill and no longer able to care for him. He's 6 years old and absolutely beautiful (although he prefers to be called handsome).

The reason why I signed up to be a long term cat fosterer for The Cinnamon Trust was because I had previously been frequently looking after my best friend's little black cat. She was amazing and right up until the time she died at the age of 17, she was able to cope with living between our 2 houses. Even though she wasn't mine, she stayed with me so often that my house felt very empty when she



died, and I really wanted to offer a loving home to another cat. My friend and my parents both do volunteer dog walking for The Cinnamon Trust which is how I'd heard about this fantastic charity.

On the day of Mr Tibbs' arrival I was all prepared and very excited but also extremely nervous – I was worried that I wouldn't fall in love with him and vice versa. He had a long journey and initially was too nervous to leave his basket – although he didn't have much room in there – he's a big boy! After about 20 minutes he came out and went straight under the spare bed where he stayed. I'd read up on how to introduce a cat to a new home and had set up the room with everything he needed. I frequently went to chat to him so he got used to my voice.

On the second day he was brave enough to let me lie down beside the bed and stroke him. He clearly loved the attention but not enough to come out. My parents came round to meet him and he was equally as loving with them. My Dad's long arms really helped – he could give him much better tickles than I could reach to do! That evening, after just 24 hours in the house he came out. It was wonderful to see him properly and he wandered all around upstairs before going back to his hiding place under the bed. The next day I woke up all excited to coax him out again but he was nowhere to be seen. I knew he couldn't have left the house – all exits were shut tight. I went round and round calling him and thought that maybe I'd imagined the whole thing! Eventually I checked the spare room again and saw a lump under the duvet – he'd got into the bed and flattened himself down. I now know this is the place he goes to when he's determined to hide (you can actually spot him quite easily but I haven't told him that). He doesn't really do it now, except for when I Hoover.

Since those first few days he has gone from strength to strength, and I love him to bits. Before he came to me he was used to having a lot of one to one attention

and you can tell that he truly loved being with just his owner. When we are on our own in the house he is so incredibly affectionate, especially in the evenings. He will tolerate visitors to the house but would prefer not to!

He is still a bit nervous at times but gets braver every day. He can go outside now but doesn't stay there long and likes me to stand at the open door so he doesn't have to use the cat flap. It's a bit chilly at the moment so I'm letting him be a mostly indoor cat until the spring.

I did test him at Christmas by bringing him with me to my parents' house to stay for a few days. He was brilliant. He did a bit of hiding under the bed during the day but was very sociable in the evenings and loved the extra attention. I suspect it won't make him any more likely to accept my parents in his house though.

In summary, this beautiful boy has made incredible progress and I honestly don't know what I would do without him now. He is definitely no angel – he nibbles my toes when he wants me to get up and get him breakfast, he is the most messy eater and he climbs on/scratches every piece of furniture he can, but he has so many funny little ways and is the most affectionate cat I have ever met; and I wouldn't change anything about him.

I feel so honoured that his owner trusted me to look after him and I was lucky enough to be able to email and thank her when he first arrived, which I am very grateful for."



Julie Mawer in Northumberland remembers **Jack** who was so loved!

"It was just a normal day or I thought it was going to be, until the telephone rang.



I answered the phone and it was The Cinnamon Trust asking if I would foster a dog as his owner was in hospital. Of course I said what kind of dog is it? The details were then given to me. He was a male Jack Russell called Jack and that he was about 16/17 years old.

It was arranged to collect Jack on the Friday after

work so we had the weekend to help settle him in.

It was about 4pm when my husband Pete pulled up outside I rushed out to meet Pete and our new guest. Well what shock I got when Jack stumbled out of the car! I was expecting a Jack Russell but here was a Labrador with Jack Russell legs and Queen Ann legs at that!



Jack with James and Elliot

We went into the house and introduced Jack to our Yorkshire Terrier Nutmeg who at the time was 6yrs old, they immediately became friends. We had 2 cats at the time Sweep who was an old boy also 12 years and Pepsi who was 6yrs they were both rescue cats. They sneaked up for a sniff when Jack wasn't looking but nobody seemed bothered.

We put Jack's bed in the living room and sat and watched him as he had a sniff around and then he went for a look in the garden, and then it was time for a snooze. He climbed into his bed and we knew he was happy as the snoring began and he sounded just like an old man, it made us both smile.

By the end of the weekend it was like Jack had always been with us and he had soon settled into our family.

On the 31st July 2013 we became the long term foster home for Jack due to illness in his elderly owner. Our grandchildren visited James (6) and Elliot (4), Jack loved them and they loved him. He would roll on the carpet so they could tickle his belly and I don't know who enjoyed it the most,

We are lucky to live near a beach so walks on the beach were a regular thing, Jack loved the beach and so does Nutmeg but both in different ways. Nutmeg loves her ball and will chase it 100 miles an hour for hours, but not Jack he likes to waddle along at his own pace which is snail pace and sniff every blade of grass or on the beach every grain of sand. My pace isn't much quicker so that suited me, while my husband played ball with Nutmeg. When Jack had had enough of Nutmeg flying past him after the ball he would simply wait until the ball came near him and then just pick it up and carry it the rest of the way, that was the end of Nutmeg's game.

Jack was such a character everyone would stop to talk and stroke him and they

would say that he looked like he was smiling, he always was. He could also be very stubborn and it was his way or no way, but he always put a smile on everyone's face, probably more when he was being stubborn.

By April this year Jack had really started to slow down and mornings were difficult to get up and get going (we all know how that feels), so we went to the vets to get some more medication, this helped and he was still happy to go out for a little walk.

Monday 15th August 2016 was not a normal day it was a very sad day, it was the day we had to say goodbye to Jack, the vet was great, nothing was too much, Pete and I stayed with him while he went to sleep for the last time. We were heart broken.

Sleep tight Jack we have lovely memories of you. Xxxx

I wanted to write this story to share how much happiness Jack gave us and to say what a wonderful thing The Cinnamon Trust is.”



What follows now is a three way story which demonstrates so well how what we do, what volunteers do, makes the worst of times better – but you will weep.

First, **Emma-Jane Samorth** (County Durham) says:

“Throughout my Dad’s 6 year treatment for leukaemia and skin cancer, his loyal dog (a long-haired Lurcher named Luce, pronounced Lu-chi, means light in Italian) was by his side every step of the way. When Dad had to be admitted to hospital in February, he put Luce in the kennels and constantly worried about being away from her. As Dad’s condition worsened, it became clear that he would no longer be able to take care of Luce and so we got in contact with The Cinnamon Trust. It was a Saturday and we got through to the emergency service. We were told that The Trust would like to speak to Dad to give him peace of mind and explain how they work. My Dad had a long chat about Luce with the lady and after the conversation (and our family really can’t express how grateful we were) it was like a weight had been lifted off us all. We knew that Luce would be ok.

They were kind, caring, understanding and incredibly supportive. As Luce was in kennels and my Dad was worrying about it, they started to find her a foster home straight away. Things moved very quickly and a foster was found and a driver to collect and take her there.

Dad decided to spend his final few days at home with his family so The Trust

arranged for Luce to be brought to visit Dad before she went to her new home. This meant so much to Dad and I know that he greatly appreciated being able to see her and spend some time with her. It was a great comfort to him to know that she'd be looked after and cared for as she meant a great deal to him.

Sadly, Dad passed away on April 17th 2016, but we haven't forgotten what The Cinnamon Trust did for Luce and we are in regular contact with her foster parents who send us weekly updates and pictures. They are planning to bring Luce to come and visit us in the near future and we can't wait to see how she's getting on. We really can't thank The Trust enough, they went above and beyond to provide care and support to us during an incredibly difficult time."



Now, volunteer **Don Quilter:**

"On the 15th April Debbie from The Cinnamon Trust called me and asked me if I could help with a transport from Stockton-on-Tees to Norfolk. I live in Devon and had told The Trust I was happy to transport anywhere but this was a big ask. Debbie explained that she had tried to find someone nearer but she was struggling, she then told me that a gentleman was terminally ill and had come home to spend his last few days with his family and wanted to say goodbye to his dog Luce before she went to her foster home. I now understood the urgency so I left that night. I drove through the night and reached the kennels where Luce had been staying while Paul, her owner, had been in hospital. I slept for a few hours in the car and then went into the kennels to meet a very handsome and friendly Lurcher. She was only too pleased to get in the car and get going.

Just a short 10 mile journey took us to her home she shared with Paul. As we arrived her ears picked up and I could tell she knew she was home.

I walked up to the house with Luce and Paul's ex-wife Barbara. Once the door was open Luce bounded in and went over to Paul to say hello. Paul was in a hospital bed in the living room. He was clearly very ill but also clearly very pleased to see Luce, she made a fuss of him then checked out the rest of the house helping herself to some dog biscuits' from the kitchen. I left them, Paul his family and his dog so

they could be together without me intruding. I went into town and had a coffee.

After an hour or so I returned, knocked on the door and was let in by Paul's son. Luce was sleeping on her old bed by the side of Paul's hospital bed. We got ready to go, Paul was awake and aware that we were going, he told us where some of Luce leads etc were. Paul and his family all said goodbye to her, it was very emotional.

The following text was sent to me by Barbara after we had left -

"I just wanted to say on behalf of the whole family, thank you a million times over for bringing Luce to see Paul today ... It meant the world for him to be able to say his goodbye to her in a calm and unrushed way. He was much calmer after her visit. He is poorly tonight though, I think Luce's visit came just in time. Thank you."

..... and **Mike McGonigle** (Norfolk) who will foster **Luce** for all of her life says:

"When my partner and I lost our beloved Greyhound we were devastated. We have been volunteers with The Cinnamon Trust since 2009 and have walked lots of lovely dogs over the years. I remember the date well it was the 14th April when I received a call from Debbie at The Trust who wanted to talk about the volunteer re-registration form I had just sent in. On the form I expressed an interest in fostering for The Trust and explained how we were struggling with not having a dog. Debbie said " I can see from your form that you like Greyhounds and Lurchers". After an enthusiastic yes from me she told us about Luce, explained her situation and sent us her photo.

On the 16th April Luce arrived with Don who had driven her all the way from County Durham to us, he had had a long and emotional day and understandably wanted to get home so after a cup of coffee he left.

Once we were alone, Luce, with a shaggy grey/ white coat and an Irish Wolfhound look about her, completely ignored me for ten minutes as she checked out the ground floor of our rambling old house. I waited in the conservatory until her inspection was complete. She came into the room and suddenly looked up at me through the curls around her eyes: she smiled and lay down on her back for her tummy to be tickled: our training had begun.

After Luce's visit to Paul of that morning his health deteriorated very rapidly. Barbara, Paul's ex wife and good friend, later told me that Paul seemed to be holding on until Luce had found a loving new home. For the first few weeks and even now occasionally, a far-away look comes over her and we know she is thinking about Paul and his family.

We've become firm 'virtual' friends with Barbara and we're planning a visit to see her soon.

Luce has swept us off our feet with her personality. She is funny, excitable, beautiful, charming, intelligent and we adore her. Who'd have thought that a call from The Cinnamon Trust would lead to such joy?"



Gold Awards for exceptional service have been awarded to:

Rowena Smith (Middlesex) and **Jim** and **Zillah Patten** (Essex).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Margaret Cook (Norfolk), **Meryl Timms** (Lincolnshire), **Pamela Daley** (Yorkshire), **Rosemary Mullaney** (Merseyside), **Mary Todd** (Lancashire), **Kay Aspinall** (Manchester) and **Pauline Portch** (Kent).

And Special Owner Nominated Awards go to:

Cathy Holwill (Berkshire), **Claire Staddon** (London), **Amanda Roberts** (Bedfordshire), **Emily-Bethan Dunn** (Wiltshire), **Rebecca Davies** (Glamorgan) and **Gwyneth Phillips** (Glamorgan).



Pet Friendly Care Homes

We are delighted to have so many outstanding examples of pet-friendly care homes and retirement housing on our register, and it is with great pleasure that we are watching the register grow year upon year. For this reason we have decided not to launch a new edition of our popular book – as with anything in print, it goes out of date too quickly, and so to ensure the information we give you is as up-to-date as possible, we are sending out listings from the register to enquirers for the county or counties they require, free of charge. This applies to both the care homes and retirement housing, and people can choose to receive the listings by post or email.

Pet-Friendly Care Home of the Year

There were so many well deserving 'homes' it proved too difficult to pick just one,

and so we decided to choose the best 5 from the care home sector, and best 5 from the retirement housing sector.

Our Top 5's are...

Care Homes:

Venville House – Devon

The Old Vicarage – Dorset

Neuadd Drymmau – Glamorgan

Sunrise of Southbourne – Dorset

Avalon Care Home – Merseyside

Retirement Complexes:

Bishops Court - Devon

Syndey Hall Court - Flintshire

Dornden Gardens - Kent

The Ropewalk and Cottages - Wiltshire

Walpole Court – Dorset

Just before Christmas we surprised them by sending a hamper of goodies to each one, as a thank you for all they do for their residents with pets. Here are some of their responses...

The Old Vicarage Residential Care Home – Sherborne, Dorset



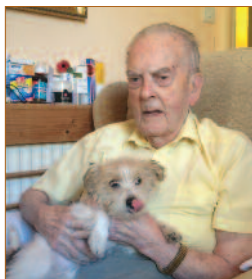
Rebecca Elford, Manager of The Old Vicarage writes: "I just wanted to say thank you so much for the lovely hamper you sent to us. It is so kind of you and it was a lovely surprise! I am also really excited that we have been identified in your Top 5 Outstanding Pet Friendly Care Homes 2015/16. We think so much about our pets at our home, they are part of our large family here. They give such joy to the Residents living here, so for this

to be recognised is fantastic. Thank you!"

Jan Millward, the Activities Coordinator added "We were so thrilled to get your letter and wonderful hamper. We are delighted to be in the top 5 care homes. Our cats have disappeared with their new toys and the dogs are loving the treats!"

Venville House Residential Home – Princetown, Devon

Lindsey Huntley, Manager and Owner of Venville House wrote "We are delighted to have been selected as one of The Cinnamon Trust's top five outstanding pet friendly care homes. We know how important the bond between pet and owner



Fred with Piper



Betty and Bluebell



Gordon with Flicker and Blossom

is, especially when they are having to give up their own homes and move into care. No one should have to be parted from their pet as well, if it is at all possible, at this time. Over the past 27 years Venville House are pleased to have been home to numerous dogs, cats and budgies belonging to residents, as well as having rabbits, guinea pigs, horses, chickens and pet lambs. We work hard to make them all welcome and support our residents to look after them.



Julia with Max and Piper

We would like to thank The Cinnamon Trust for their support of the elderly and their pets too. We would also like to introduce you to our latest member of the family, Piper. She is proving to be a big hit with the people who live here and their visitors. She is really helping some of the younger visitors spend quality time with their loved ones."



Hanover Housing Association have an extremely impressive 3 retirement schemes featured in our top 5! This is testament to Hanover's fantastic pet policy and wonderfully pet-friendly scheme managers. Dame Clare Tickell, Chief Executive for Hanover Housing Association said: "We are delighted that three of our estates have made it into The Cinnamon Trust's Top 5. At Hanover we actively welcome pet ownership at over 630 estates across the country. This includes our Extra Care estates where residents can sometimes require more support. Pets provide wonderful companionship for many older people and we know how valuable this is. The approach we take recognises that pet ownership is based on responsible ownership and we support residents to consider alternative short or long-term pet care arrangements if their circumstances suddenly change."

Dornden Gardens – Chatham, Kent

Michelle Thomas, Scheme Manager at Hanover Housing's Dornden Gardens



wrote "We are delighted that Dornden Gardens has received this award for 'Outstanding Pet Friendly Retirement Housing Complex for 2015/16'. It is such an achievement and an honour for us because our pets are part of our small and friendly community here. They are valued companions with unique personalities and they fill their owners' and neighbours' lives with such joy - we couldn't imagine life

without them. We feel privileged to have been acknowledged for the care shown to all our pets, whether they have paws, claws, feathers or fins."

Bishops Court – Teignmouth, Devon



Bishops Court is another delightfully pet-friendly Hanover Housing Association retirement scheme. Estate Manager Richard Moore takes his collie dog Minna on all of his visits to the residents - he also often leaves Minna with some of the more disabled residents for company and some canine cuddles and affection! He said "The residents here at Bishops Court are proud and delighted with their recent top 5 award (and hamper!) from The Cinnamon Trust. On an estate of just 26 retirement units, there are 8 dogs, 2 cats, 3 caged birds and a tame pair of blackbirds! Pets are an integral part of the estate and Hanover's pet-friendly policy is a major attraction for many potential purchasers looking to buy or relocate to

this idyllic south Devon village".

The Ropewalk and Ropewalk cottages – Bradford-On-Avon, Wiltshire

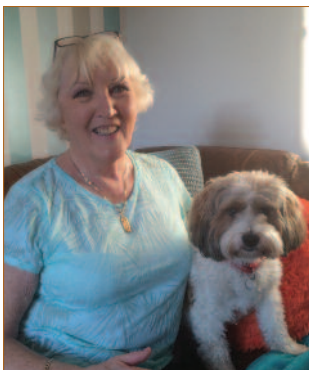
Another Hanover Housing scheme, The Ropewalk is managed by Jeannie Nolan who wrote "It was really nice to get in The Cinnamon Trust's Top 5 - I actively promote positive pet ownership to prospective purchasers, and have reminded

existing residents that they can have a pet as long as Hanover are aware and can issue a pet policy of responsible ownership for their individual pet. I display the certificate of the alliance between Hanover and The Cinnamon Trust in the Foyer, and assist residents to profile their pets if they so wish. Being pet-friendly means that residents without pets can enjoy the medically proven positive health benefits that pet interaction can bring, and engender conversations and memories about their previous pet ownership and loved pets, so even if they feel having another pet is not right for them, they can enjoy someone else's, as is borne out when Pip the Schnauzer (pictured left) happily goes off for a planned long walk with a neighbour who loves to walk. The Cinnamon Trust ensures our residents have support during times of illness, and for residents to know their pet will be cared for allays much anxiety and concern. I think it is really important that residents know that Hanover is a pet friendly housing organisation, as historically people perceive housing associations as seeking to deter pet ownership in communal living, but the secret to making it work is a combination of responsible pet ownership, the positive Hanover Pet policy, and the support of The Cinnamon Trust."



Sydney Hall Court – Flintshire

Wales and West Housing were delighted that one of their complexes - Sydney Hall Court, was chosen to be one of our Top 5 retirement schemes; "Wales & West Housing Chief Executive, Anne Hinchey said: "We are proud that The Cinnamon Trust has included our Sydney Hall Court in its top five pet-friendly retirement schemes. WWHA appreciates and understands how caring for a pet can bring companionship and happiness to our residents, which is why we support pet ownership in our schemes across Wales. Looking after a pet can have enormous benefits to the well-being of owners and The Cinnamon Trust's volunteers carry out valuable work to help them care for their pets." Scheme Manager at Sydney Hall Court, Alison Moody added "As a scheme manager I can see the benefits of being a pet friendly scheme and what it brings to our residents at Wales and West Housing. It helps foster a better community spirit at the scheme, bringing the residents together. It also helps combat health issues and loneliness, as well as adding a sense of security. It is so obvious how much the pets mean to the



Left to right: Sheila and Bluey; Jill and Ruby; Jen with Sandy, Scheme Manager Alison Moody, and Lynn Collard with her dog Lily

residents. They are all very responsible pet owners and will look after one and others pets when they go away or attend appointments.”



Well done to all of you, and thank you to all on our register for your care and compassion - between us we will keep owners and pets together.

We are making preparations for our assessors to go out visiting each of the homes and retirement schemes on our register again this Spring/Summer. We are always looking for Care Homes and Retirement Housing to add to our Pet Friendly Care Home Register; if you know of a home or sheltered scheme which accepts pets, or you work in one that's not on our register, please call or email Donna (donnatucker@cinnamon.org.uk) – it's easy to register and totally free of charge.



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Exciting times here with some major building works underway to connect the staff bungalow to the dog rooms. The dogs love to follow us everywhere and when the extension is complete, they'll be able to, whatever the weather or time of year – they'll love it! The construction work has been challenging because of the substantial difference in ground levels and wet weather hasn't made for speedy progress! But we're getting there and it shouldn't be too long now before it's done. Hopefully the dogs' dismay at the builders' departure (lots of extra cuddles, snacks to be pilfered and the ever fascinating business of building!) will be short lived as they discover the reason for it all

trees(!) and the squirrels that lived in them have repaired to our trees to join all the pheasants that live here, cleverly evading the shoots, the deer that also seem to have multiplied and of course the fox who comes for dinner – walkies have never been so good, what to sniff first? Where to race to next?

The cats, blissfully unaware of all the above, have been doing what cats do, keeping warm and dry. Some brave the gardens whatever but mostly, no – sunshine on the window sill will do nicely until it warms up which is just about now for a few more but warm summer sun is when a complete exodus to the great outdoors is the order of the day

We haven't escaped the sadness of loss. Both our gorgeous goats, **Chaz** (12) and **Dermott** (9); **Pebbles** (14½) darling Golden Retriever cross who'd been with us for eight and a half years; **Dougal** (12) Cocker Spaniel with a huge zest for life and cuddles; **Jenny** (15½) sweet, characterful tabby and white; **Jess** (16) beautiful and black; **Bennie** (16) stunning ginger boy and our Maine Coon **Leo** (14). Never to be forgotten, they have left us with a myriad of memories.

Making happy memories as soon as they arrived, **Misty** (10½) and **Leah** (12), two gorgeous Greyhounds with big, big smiles ran round the fields at seemingly supersonic speed and then inside bouncing on and off all the sofas (just testing for later!) and then eyes wide, an elegant stop, noses in the air, they could smell a delicious chicken dinner cooking! They absolutely love their grub – Misty would eat all day and



Misty and Leah

she is not averse to stolen delicacies be it your lunch or anyone else's! Leah is no less keen but much more ladylike and refined although it has to be said, she too will steal if given the chance but ever so discreetly. Leah is a typical couch potato who loves to be pampered, cuddled, tickled and groomed. When she can be persuaded she also loves to go out for some pheasant hunting and mole hill pouncing and if the mood takes her she'll join in with Misty and Lola (our Pyrenean Mountain Dog) in a game of chase. All that said they are darling, gentle girls who will love summer at Hillside though picnics might be a challenge!

Tommy (17) is another gentle soul – he is the sweetest, softest natured boy and he appreciates to the full the finer things in life like fresh cooked salmon(!) and he



Tommy

does like a cuddle. He hasn't ventured outside much but he does like a sunny spot on our window sill indoors, so maybe the summer sun is all that he's waiting for! A dear old boy who is happily settled who in his clever, quiet way has us wrapped around his little paws.

Roll on summer, we are all ready for those lovely warm, dry days and planning to have great fun and frolics!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

You can tell it's springtime at Poldarves! The tortoises are up and about and hungry after their winter sleep, the ducks are vying for the best houses to nest in, the tree ducks are getting very flirty, the geese are making nests in the hedge, the ponies have hung up their winter rugs and are making the most of what's left of the mud to roll in and generally feeling frisky and the squirrels are coming out to play!

But we lost three of our gorgeous squirrels this winter, **Alice** (8), **Edward** (9) and **William** (9). We've also lost darling **Benji** (15) Shih Tzu; little **Jenna** (18) Jack Russell; **Jade** (15) so special Shih Tzu; tiny **Sophie** (16) Papillon; dear old **Fred**



Annie

(16) Border Terrier cross; **Whisper** (13) one of our beloved Shetland Ponies. And three of our adored cats, **Bubba** (17), **Sweep** (12) and **Billy** (14). All so greatly missed and so very fondly remembered, always.

New faces come to add their magic to the glorious mix – **Annie** (15), is a tiny adorably cute little girl with the prettiest face and a tail that never stops wagging. She settled

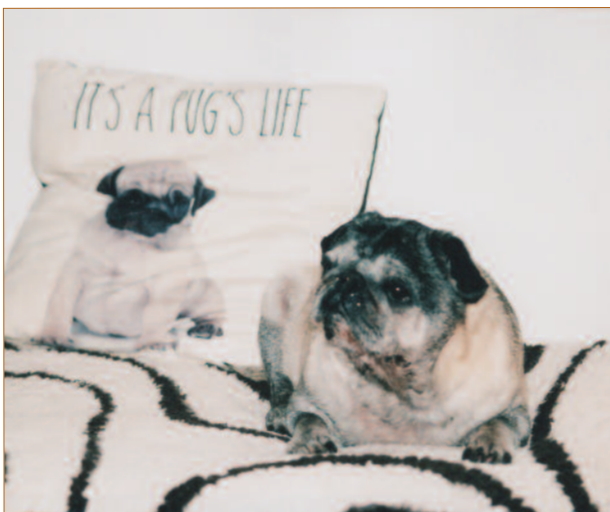
from day one – she loves people, dogs, cats, food, walks, grooming, everything, she is so happy-go-lucky. She rolls over for tummy tickles, and will play with a treat ball all day. She watches your every move and if you're talking to her, or to anyone else, she tilts her little head from side to side listening to every word! She is so affectionate, so loving, kindness personified.

Buddy (14) such a handsome boy with a very deep bark and he's good at letting us know if there are strangers about. Buddy is very loyal and loving and he does like to wash everyone's ears and faces. He's ecstatic when being towel dried if he gets wet and he does like to use a human leg as a table napkin after dinner, or a refreshing drink! He's happy to eat his breakfast and lunch from a dish on his bespoke "table" but for some reason dinner is a dish to be savoured and hand-fed! He loves his walks, especially the beach where he runs and runs on the sand. And, like a real, proper Greyhound he adores stretching right out in front of a log fire – even better if there's someone to cuddle him as well



Buddy

Jack (10) is a very comical boy and always makes you smile. He's quite clumsy and he'll park his bottom wherever he wants to sit and that could be on your feet, on another dog, on top of a toy that then squeaks and he's perplexed as to where that came from! He and **Spud** (our little black Pug who has been here for 2 years) have struck up a loving friendship and they sleep together, resting heads on each other – so, so sweet. Jack gets very



Jack

excited at meal times and patrols the kitchen with diligence – when he first came he'd try and get dinner out of the Aga by himself. So tempted was he by the aroma – now he does wait for us! There are times when he feels the need for conversation whereupon he sits down and proceeds to tell you, in detail, his story especially if something or someone unusual is happening. A totally loveable boy.



George and Gary

The cats have been joined by 17 year old brothers **George** and **Gary**. George is more extrovert and likes to supervise meal times and determine who gets what – if there's a variety of dishes he has to taste everything before he settles on his choice. Fresh chicken is top of his bill of fare every time. George and Gary are very close and always cuddle up together at night. Gary is the baby of the two and very gentle. He adores being cuddled and groomed and bless, he suckles his blanket like a kitten.

Both play when the mood takes them and neither look their age. They are very friendly with all the other cats and very much enjoy being part of the family.



Pippa

Pippa (18) is determined, pretty and dainty – she likes to sleep in a tent and doesn't like to be disturbed! Pippa loves her food especially prawns and fresh fish and she will play, but only with feathers. She absolutely doesn't act her age and she has no frailties. You can groom her and she does enjoy it until she says stop - everything with Pippa is on her terms and why not, we say at her age she's entitled! For example, she likes to sit beside you for a cuddle, not on your lap – so characterful, you can't help loving her.

Jacob (16) and **Solomon** (17) are best friends who came together. Solomon is a gorgeous, loving, big boy – a lap cat first and foremost, sit down and he's there (even if he can't quite fit!) He clearly loves his food, but he is a gourmet and fresh is best with beef or lamb tops! Seconds are always welcome Jacob eats just as well but it doesn't show!! Solomon likes everything just so and in its place – he is spooked by anything “new” or “different” appearing, whereas Jacob is keen to investigate and play with it. Jacob does very much take it upon himself to nanny Solomon and look after him (and check what he's eating!) and they always sleep together. They love sunning themselves on the window sills and watching the duck pond, the chickens and the geese – they don't think it's warm enough outside yet!



Jacob



Solomon

We're really, really looking forward to summer proper, paddling pools, ice lollies, picnics, sunbathing, all the doors open, everyone meandering, Lola stealing sausages from other people's bar-b-cues on the beach!! Just a word about darling **Lola** (who is always on the last page of the newsletter). She's pint size but she has the biggest heart in the world – there are no words that can say how special she is – if any dog is at all poorly, Lola stays beside them, she won't move, she stops anyone else disturbing them, she tends them and she won't let the vet hurt them – if he does, she'll attack with the ferocity of a tigress but let her loose in an assembly of primary school pupils and she meticulously and systematically ensures that every child present can stroke her, gentle as a lamb No visitor leaves Poldarves without falling in love with Lola.

Poetry Corner

Our first poem was written by **Reverend Charles Potter**

To My Cat

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

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

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



Our second is a heart breaker sent in by **Jean Norton** in Cheshire.

I stood by your bed last night
I came to have a peep
I could see that you were crying
You found it hard to sleep.

I whined to you softly
As you brushed away a tear
It's me, I haven't left you
I'm well, I'm fine, I'm here.

I was close to you at breakfast
I watched you pour the tea
You were thinking of me many times
Your hands reached down to me.

I was with you at the shops today
Your arms were getting sore
I longed to take your parcels
I wish I could do more.

I was with you at my grave today
You tend it with such care
I want to reassure you
That I'm not lying there.

I walked with you towards the house
As you fumbled for your key
I gently put my paw on you
I smiled and said it's me.

You looked so very tired
As you sank into your chair
I've tried so hard to let you know
That I was standing there.

It's possible for me
To be so near you every day
To say to you with certainty
I never went away.

You sat there very quietly
Then smiled, I think you knew
In the stillness of that evening
I was very close to you.

The day is over
I smile and watch you yawning
And say "goodnight, God bless,
I'll see you in the morning".

And when the time is right for you
To cross the brief divide
I'll rush across to greet you
And we'll stand side by side.

I have many things to show you
There's so much for you to see
Be patient, live your journey out
Then come home to be with me.



And Finally

Spring is in the air, Summer is to come, there's warmth in the sun and busy-ness absolutely everywhere – the birds, the plants, the animals and us! So, with high hopes for fabulous weather, may I say have a lovely Summer and the very best of luck with all the events you have planned.

God Bless everyone.

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

