
NEWSLETTER

10 Market Square Hayle Cornwall TR27 4HE
Telephone 01736 757900 Fax 01736 757010
Email admin@cinnamon.org.uk www.cinnamon.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1134680



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Number 63

Dear Friends

How's this for a view? **Mewley** (10) used to live in Leicester with her friend, a Shih Tzu called Minnie. Following the death of his wife, Shirley, Peter Appleby moved into a care home and couldn't take them both. Overlooking this fantastic view of St Ives, Mewley is completely at home with her new long-term foster **Meg Brown** and her Tibetan Terrier, Pixie. Within an hour of her arrival she had bagged Meg's favourite chair, eaten her dinner and was looking out the window!



Now, her special place is on the cat tree overlooking the busy harbour and watching the to-ing and fro-ing of the passers-by. Meg says she's so lucky to have such a wonderful friendly cat who gets on so very well with her beloved Pixie.

Every one's a winner and much more to come!....



Jack (13)



Lola Bear (11) and Murphy (12)



Josephine (1)



Sammy (over 37)



Rosie (15) and Tim (15)



Tigger (15)



Tigger (16)



Matty (10)



Moss (10)



Lola (10) and Rupert (14)



Misty (10½)



Timmy (16)

Catalogue

Ditch the diet for a day or two! The Cornish Nevek is a really delicious chocolate cream liqueur and the gift pack includes little chocolate shot cups! Put it all in the fridge, pour the liqueur into the cups and eat the cups after you've drunk the liqueur! And Cornish Gin Fudge to tempt you as well! Lots more ideas for Christmas gifts too (I hope!).



CT '100 Club

Winners who have each received £25 are: Apr: **Eileen Wiltshire** (North Yorkshire), May: **Penelope Hurt** (Herefordshire) June: **Maura Jelley** (Surrey), July: **Donald Stoye** (Dorset), Aug: **Brenda Lissimore** (Gloucestershire) and Sept: **Greg Long** (North Yorkshire). Forms for the new start are enclosed. If you pay by standing order and wish to continue, just send the forms back marked 'existing standing order' and we'll send you a new number.



Fundraising Events

Clare Johnson and everyone at **Wyvern Veterinary Society** (Worcestershire) enjoyed a visit from the Head of Eye Veterinary Clinic, Christine Heinrich, who nominated us to receive her £200 fee. **Claire Hamilton** (Norfolk) held a Christmas raffle and raised a wonderful £256. **Hannah Sleight** and everyone at **My Family Vets** (Newcastle Upon Tyne) held an Open Day and raised £123. **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) raised £125 from baking and selling lots of yummy dog biscuits. **Abbie Crabtree** (Essex) sold some DVDs to her work colleagues and raised £10. **Katie Webb** and everyone at **Blake Vets** (Somerset) held an Open Day event and raised a fantastic £1,472.75. **Katrina Leyland** and everyone at



Blake Vets

Tyldesley Veterinary Centre (Manchester) held a number of fundraising events over the Christmas period and raised a brilliant £497.45. **Sylvia Boxall's** Floral Art group (Hertfordshire) held a sale of art accessories and raised £25. **Angela Booth** (West Yorkshire) and her team at **Bradford Council** held a variety of Christmas events from home-made Christmas cakes for sale to a tombola and raised £308. **Village Vets** (London)

sent £70 raised throughout the year. **Sharon Marks** and the community service team, **Year 12 pupils at Brighton College**, held a raffle and they raised a superb £213.02 for us. **Brinny Lister** (Oxfordshire) has been busy again feeding cats and walking dogs and she raised a wonderful £220. **Liz Prowse** (Norfolk) celebrated her birthday and in lieu of presents she raised £90. **Mike Forbes** and **The Bretheren of Connaught Lodge** (Kent) raised a tremendous £2,091 from their Master's Charity Ball, we were their charity of the year. **Fran Harvey**, Director of Berry & Dolly's Salon Ltd (Hertfordshire) has been saving all the tips her clients generously gave her over the last few months and raised a wonderful £296.60! **Gemma Ninnmey** (Suffolk) raised £203 at her Christmas raffle. **Jo Saunders** (Kent) held a Christmas buffet during staff training at work and raised £60 for us. **Aurelie Four** (London) raised £168.55 from selling Corgi items designed by **Corinna Schlachter** to all the lovely fans of marcel@lecorgi and Jasper Islington. **Jayne Lawson** (Devon) and her gorgeous dog **Callie** celebrated her 60th birthday and raised £100 in lieu of presents – many congratulations! **Matthew**



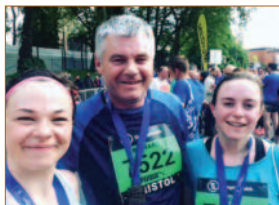
Jayne Lawson and Callie

Beard (Bedfordshire) raised £135 from a yoga and work yoga class. **Knotts Yard Veterinary Practice** (Norfolk) raised £41.94 from their collection tin. **Maria Williams'** friend (Cornwall) knitted more of her lovely chicks which Maria sold and raised £44. **Kim Lyons** (Norfolk) raised £40 on her stall. **Northdale Veterinary Practice Ltd** (West Sussex) raised £42.41 from their collection box. **Kimberly McCrilly** and all the staff at **Black Country Housing Group** (West Midlands) enjoyed 'Bring Your Dog to Work Day' and raised £40. **Maureen** and **Derek Edwards** (Norfolk) forwarded £33.61 which **Robert Folland** raised on his Organics' stall at Norwich Market. **Philemena Hooper** (Cornwall) raised £247.16 selling lots of books at the Punchbowl and Ladle, the Royal Oak and The Old Quay, Devoran. **Debbie Kendall** (Buckinghamshire) designed and sold Christmas cards and raised £150. **Stowe Veterinary Centre** (Suffolk) raised £213.36 from their collection tin. **Babs Main** (Norfolk) together with staff and customers at the **Twenty Church Wardens** pub raised £100. **Neighbourly Ltd** (Bristol) nominated The Trust to benefit from Starbucks Red Cup Cheer campaign and they sent us £500. **Shelley Towle** and everyone at **The Ark Pet Centres** (Devon) nominated us as



Ark Pets Centres

their charity of the year and all the branches raised a terrific £1,115.77. **Melissa Ormiston** and the team at **Keystone Conference & Events Management** (Gloucestershire) nominated us as their charity this year. They arranged the VPMA/SPVS Congress 2017 over 2 days in January and raised an amazing £1,966. This is superb - **Sheila Hurst** (Devon) with the help of **Diane** and **Barbara Osbourn**, raised £1,463.99 from the Bishops Nympton Sunday



Katie Bell, Dad and sister

Luncheon, recycling cartridges, emptying the collection box and the big seller – all her delicious home-made jams and chutneys! **Katie Bell** (West Midlands), her sister and their Dad ran the Bristol 10k and raised £205 – well done!

Barry Cuff (Cornwall) held quiz nights at his pub The Maltsters Arms and raised £110. This is really lovely –

Milda Laycock and the congregation at **St Lukes Church, Grayshott** (Surrey) heard about us last year and

decided to send the Offering from their Christmas service of £100. **Sian Wade**

(Warwickshire) with help from **Sarah Brunson**, **Charlotte Didor** and **Fiona McBeth** held one of her famous coffee mornings and raised £325. **Audrey Breckon**

(County Durham) raised £100 from making and selling her very sweet baby clothes. **Terri Caswell** (Somerset) raised £125 in lieu of presents on her birthday. All

the staff at **Fat Face, St Ives** (Cornwall) selected us to benefit from their 'Thanks For



Audrey Breckon and Pepi

Giving' week and raised a fantastic £632.97. **Colin Wright** (West Sussex) raised £124.66 from a quiz night and the contents of the collection box at The New Inn, Hurstpierpoint. **Peter Hanson** (North Yorkshire) ran in the Yorkshire Marathon and raised a stonking £4,086.31. He also donated a percentage of his mail order

sales throughout 2016 and raised an astounding £9,524.78! Brilliant, Peter – well done! **Christine Townsend** at **Lands' End Europe Ltd** (Rutland) raised £100.

Christine Lawn and **The Lupset Park Group** (West Yorkshire) raised a terrific

£449 from various events throughout the year. **Elizabeth Simpson** and the members

of **The Baildon Moravian Craft Club** raised £50 with their crafty efforts. **Liz Veasey**

(Nottinghamshire) raised £80 from Christmas wreath workshops and selling sprigs of mistletoe. **Roz Godfrey**

(Hampshire) raised £34.07 from the sale of some home-made items and her collection tin. **Carl Drinkwater** (West Midlands) has

been busy again, he raised £124.54 from



Liz Veasey

friends and family recycling. **Jennie Barnes'** Dogtastic obedience display team (Cornwall) held an event at St Agnes Memory Café and raised £50. **Honor Shurmer** won the charity quiz at The Manor Arms (Somerset) and nominated us to receive the £50 winnings. **Hill Barn Ladies Golf Club** (West Sussex) raised a staggering £545 for us. **Maggie Martin** went to meet the ladies and collect the cheque. **Gina O'Neill** (Cheshire) raised £30 from the sale of goodies. **Martin Furminger**



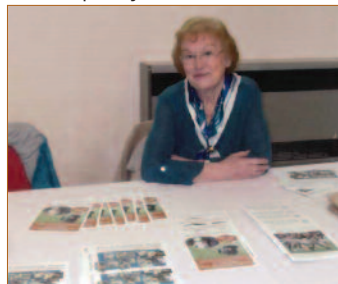
Hill Barn Ladies Golf club members with Maggie Martin

and the congregation of **Withycombe Methodist Church** (Devon) held a coffee morning and raised £40. **Ann Gibbs'** daughter-in-law, **Laura** (Bedfordshire) collected all her loose change and sent £30 in memory of her father, **John Morton**. **Karen McCullough** and everyone at **Blue Insurance** have raised a fantastic £1,731 – we are their chosen charity. **Lynn Levick's** massage students (Herefordshire) raised £140 from grateful competitors who received a massage to help them through different bouts of Ju-Jitsu at a local major sports event! **Susan Wilkinson** and everyone at **Scarsdale Vets** (Derbyshire) held a pet first aid talk and sent us £515.63 raised from ticket sales – brilliant! **Elizabeth Biggs** and fellow students of **Truro House** at **Twyford C of E High School** (London) held an Enterprise Day with various activities including a bake sale and raised an amazing £313.46! **Myra Cox** (Somerset) made and sold more of her hand-made cards and raised £37. **Caroline Uff** (Buckinghamshire) has been carrying out chair-based exercise sessions for residents of a local sheltered housing complex and raised £40. **Christine Ellis** (Somerset) sent £40.93 raised by **Dulverton Vets Practice**.



Girls from Twyford C of E High School

Janet Birdsall (Northampshire) celebrated her 80th birthday and raised £150 in lieu of presents. **Lyn Brown** (Warwickshire) celebrated her 70th birthday, she also abstained from receiving presents and raised £125 at her party. **Jan McLean** (Hampshire) raised £44 from the sale of household/doggy items. **Maggie Martin** (West Sussex) raised £370 from auctioning a hand-carved walking cane donated by **Geoff Weston**, a 'Tea in the Garden' at **June Munro's** home and **Findon Gardens Association** Plant Sale (Chris Young provided some wonderful plants and tables). **Vivienne Hazell** (Suffolk) raised £20 along with **Jean White** on a stall at 'Doggy Day' - a Pet Awareness Day. **Michael O'Connor** and **Karen Bailey** of **Mika**



Vivienne Hazell



Pat and Timmy

Recruitment (Dorset) have again had a great six months and raised £372.32. **Patricia Hopkins** (Gloucestershire) sold some goodies and raised £22 - what a fabulous photo of Timmy and Pat winning the "Golden Oldies" prize. **PACE (Pete's Annual Charity Event)** (Kent) raised a brilliant £2,072.05 from online auctions, raffles, sponsored events and dog shows. **Brian** and **Carol Greening** (Tyne & Wear) raised £20 from their collection tin. **Hilary Corfield** and everyone at **Corfield Solicitors** raised £60. **Kate Mortimer** and everyone at **Waitrose (Truro)** included us in their February Community Matters



Kate Mortimer and Waitrose

campaign and raised a wonderful £445. Volunteer **Hannah Conlon** (Shropshire) recently got married and the happy couple abstained from receiving wedding gifts, they raised £100 for us. Very many congratulations! **Jo Williams** from **DJS Research** completed research on behalf of Welsh Water – and sent £40 from **Valerie Haile**, a participant. **Carolyn Moody** and members of **Scarborough Lodge Haven Ladies Masons** (North Yorkshire) raised a wonderful £500 – volunteer **Marjorie Rumney** was presented with the cheque. **Donna Peppin** (Dorset) successfully



Scarborough Lodge Haven Ladies Masons

completed a half-marathon and raised £381.08 – very well done! **Rosaline Newman** (Wiltshire) knitted and sold dolls clothes and raised £33. **Tippy Pullin** (Bristol), a young volunteer doing her Silver DofE Award, held a Christmas raffle at **Power Electrics (Bristol) Ltd** and organised a Quiz Night for her family and friends and raised £305. Excellent – well done, Tippy! **Seasalt St Ives** chose The Trust to benefit from the sale of the props in their Christmas window – what a good idea – they raised £40. **Gillie McNichol** of



Donna Peppin



Tippy Pullin



Animal Aunts (Hampshire) sent £114 on behalf of her clients **Michael** and **Anna Ferguson** who sadly lost their beloved **Gabriel**. **Preston School** (Somerset) held a bake-off and raised £55.24 from their delicious treats! **Christine Derham** (Suffolk) has been selling her beautiful peacock feathers again and raised £55. **Norwich Lions Club** held an incredible Easter egg raffle and raised £475. This is good! – **Sandra Marshall's** Women's Group in South West France have been busy with raffles, selling books, greeting cards and refreshments, they raised £170. **Jean**



Preston School's baking

Foster (Devon) and her sister, **Bobby**, organised a quiz for the Cullumpton Blind Club together with a talk about taking a party of disabled students to Russia and raised £25. **Margaret Armstrong** (Essex) continues to knit her ever-popular Fair Isle gloves, she raised £230 – well done Margaret! **Rebekka Fiorani, Emma Maidment, Amy Holloway** and everyone at **Clent Hills Veterinary Surgery** (Worcestershire) held an Open Day at their new Rubery Surgery, they raised £54 from their raffle. They also personally brought a wonderful parcel of treats, toys etc following their



Barry Sheldrake and Anne Wells, Norwich Lions

Donation Drive for all our sanctuary residents to enjoy – and they did!

Maggie Brombley (Somerset) raised another £30.01 from **Polly's** sponsored slim last year. Maggie sadly lost Polly just a short time ago – our thoughts are with



Emma receives Clent Hills gifts...



...and the boys and girls approve!

you. **Veronica Read** (West Yorkshire) with help from **Molly, Benny, Jasper** and **Sky** (and their owners!) raised £17.50 from a spontaneous walk in the bluebell woods near her home – lovely! **Dawn Bushnell** (Kent) and the tenants of **Prescott House** raised £60 at their coffee morning. **Angela Harris** and **Jackie Gordon** (Sussex) raised £112 at the Bishopstone May Fair. **Dove Veterinary Surgery's** clients raised £26.50. **Joan Yeates** (Staffordshire) sent £100 when her friend gave her some stamps for her collection. **Laura** and everyone at **Ellipse UK** (London) chose 3 charities to be included in the first quarter of their 'You Quote, We Donate' campaign. At the end of each insurance quote, the caller got



Dorothy Ellis's cake stall



Jean Wesley, Pam Jameson and friends



Janet Morgan - Worcester Macular Society



Christian Crewe, Molly Webb and Merlin

to choose which charity they would like to benefit from a £1.00 donation – they sent us £330! **Dorothy Ellis** (Norfolk) held a cake sale at Swaffham Veterinary Centre and raised a fantastic £250. We walk **Pippy** for her. **Margaret Pengelly** (Cornwall) held her annual coffee evening and raised £49.44 – entertainment was provided by her cat, **Baby Midge** (16yrs) who won a raffle prize! All the staff at **Bishop's Stortford Veterinary Hospital Ltd** (Hertfordshire) wore Christmas jumpers to work to raise £50.60. **Jenny Royal** (Buckinghamshire) organised a Craft Day for her fellow parishioners at West End United Church and raised £61. **Louise Matlock** (London) raised £360 this year from sale of her fabulous hand-made crackers. **Muriel Sibree** (Norfolk) has made and sold more of her handmade jewellery as well as her ever-popular blue poppies and raised £83. **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) with help from **Jean Wesley, Pam Jameson** and **Wendy Ralphs** held a stall and raised £50.50 and gave a talk to the Worcester Macular Society and raised £74.70. **Jackie Hamnett** (Angus) raised £69.04 from her housewarming party – much happiness in your new home! **Carol** and **Terry Allen** (Somerset) celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary and raised £71 in lieu of gifts. Very many congratulations! **Christine Sumsion** (Somerset) and her lovely dog **Danni** had **Fergus** (Danni's friend) to stay and raised £12. **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) with help from **Molly Bridges** and her CT dog **Mica, Marian Eburne, Pauline Kirby, Ann Dobson**, plus guest star appearance by **Merlin** the magical CT Dog (with **Molly**, his owner and **Paul**, his dog walker) raised £203.15 from their Asda bucket collection at the Burgh Heath store! The congregation of **All Saint's Church Great Braxted** (Essex) again held a lovely Pets' Service and raised £100. **Louise Cannon** (Wiltshire) and employees of **Vygon (UK) Ltd** held a fundraising week and raised £300 from a 'guess the baby' photo competition and a retro

sweetshop! **Thelma Wright** (Deeside) with help from her friends, held an Afternoon Tea Garden Party. It stopped raining for the 2 hours to make it a great success and she raised £425!

4F Pets & Products (Cornwall) raised £71.53 from their collection tin. **Jo Gardner** and the ladies from **The Red House Lunch Club** held a raffle and raised £50. **Caroline Ridley-Duff** (South Yorkshire) celebrated her 50th birthday

by running 50 miles in May (the month of her birthday) and raised £60.25 - wow! **Judi Selby** (Somerset) held a coffee morning and raised a fabulous £300. **Carol Thorogood** and **Lynsey Smith** (Cornwall) held a stall at Enys Gardens Craft Fair and raised £23.75. **Stephanie Jones** (North Somerset) and everyone at **Home Farm Livery** sold lots of yummy cakes at their recent horse event and raised £44. **Debbie Johnson** (Devon) and a group of people stepped up to help Elsie when her bungalow burned down in 2015, sadly things didn't go according to plan, so **Elsie's Rebuild Team** raised £622.05 for us. **Ginny Campion** (Norfolk) sent £100 in lieu of birthday presents for her friend **Mary Fletcher's** 100th birthday – many congratulations, Mary! **Brook Dog Training Club** (East Sussex) held a raffle at their Christmas party and raised £200. **Smarty Paws** (Cornwall) also held a raffle at their Christmas party and raised £70. **Exeter & County Canine Society** raised £84 from their September and January charity stakes at their open shows. **Animal Magic Dog Club** (Norfolk) raffled a hamper and raised £200. **Fleet & District Dog Training Society** (Hampshire) held various events during the year as we were one of their chosen charities. They raised £326.07 from

raffles, Autumn Photographic Dog Show, Christmas party auction, a quiz night, bring and buy sales to name but a few. Special thanks to **Janet Baker**, **Wyn Roberts** and local vet **Hannah Tombs** who judged the Photographic Dog Show. **Swan School of Dog Training** (Buckinghamshire) raised £50 from their Christmas raffle. **Maria Gough** and everyone at **The UK Corgi Club** (Cheshire) raised a stupendous £1,143 from their calendar competition, they sold over 170 calendars which went all over the world! **Viv Last** and **Josie Hawken** (Dorset) of **Dog Trainers South West** sent us £500 from remaining funds as sadly they have closed. **The Severn & Avon Working Gundog Club** (Gloucestershire) sent us £150. **Laura Hook** and everyone at **Whitminster Agility** (Gloucestershire) raised £90 which they presented to us at Crufts. **Julie Goodman** and



Thelma Wright and friends



Laura Hook



Julie Goodman

all the **Tailwagger Club Dog Display Team** raised a fabulous £1,000 which they also presented to us at Crufts. **The Southampton & District Canine Association** (Hampshire) raised £22 from their stakes classes at their Open Show. **Sarah Brown** and the team at **CHeWs Dog Training Club** (London) raised a fabulous £1,479 from quiz nights, Christmas party raffles, Hamish the Westie's prize draw as well as when members forgot their poo bags in class! **Debbie Drew** and everyone at the **Hingham & District Dog Training Club** (Norfolk) enjoyed their Christmas party and raised a superb £200 from their raffle. **Helen Mugurian** and the members of **Welsh Terriers and Friends** (Cheshire) raised £200 from the sale of their wonderful Welshie calendars. Members of the **Welsh Corgi Rescue Service** (Kent) once again voted unanimously at their AGM to support us, they sent a whopping £2,500. **The Vale of Clwyd Canine Society** (Conwy) held a Companion Show in conjunction with their Annual Open Show and raised £125. **Manston K9 Society** (Kent) held an Easter Dog Show and raised £150. **The British Manchester Terrier Club** (Cheshire) sadly lost their former President, **Miss Nerolie de Lavis Trafford** and sent £100 in her memory. **Wellow Dog Training Club** (Hampshire) made lots of yummy homemade cakes for their training nights and raised £67.39 for us. **Bridport Dog Training Society** (Dorset) raised £75. **The Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain** (Lancashire) also sent £75. **Julia Norman-Brown** (Sussex) gave a presentation at the AGM of her club, **Hastings & St Leonards Dog Training Club**. The members have chosen us as their charity of the next 5 years and they have sent us £500 which is incredible – and wonderful! **The Flatcoated Retriever Society** (Leicestershire) have also been very busy selling their 2017 calendars and raised a fabulous £736 for us! **The National Pedigree Whippet Racing Association** (Hampshire) raised £202 by way of a Doggie Bring and Buy Sale. **Avon Working Trails Training Society** (Wiltshire) raised £311.00 through various events. **Cheltenham & District Dog Training Club** (Gloucestershire) raised £200. **Woodman Obedience Club** (East Sussex) raised £70 from a training ring at their Dog Show. **Malmesbury & District Dog Training Club**



The Peek-A-Boo Trust

(Gloucestershire) raised £100 for us. And for this last one please imagine a drum roll! **Gavin Robertson** (Oxfordshire) of the **Peek-A-Boo Trust**, a previous Best in Show winner at Crufts with his Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen (Jilly) organised the Pedigree Paws Unite event – a series of sponsored walks totaling 160 miles with all 216 recognised Kennel Club breed taking part – and raised a mind blowing £10,000!

Thank you all for your truly amazing efforts which have resulted in stunning results. Every penny you have raised has, in one way or another, made life better for all the pets we love and care for and who so deserve this happiness after all they have done for their owners right up to the end.



Volunteer Views

Our first view is from **Tara Creasey** in Hampshire:

I stumbled upon The Trust via an advert on my work notice board and was paired with Titch and her owner in Oct 2016. Well, on first meeting them I knew straight away we would get along. Titch is a Jack Russell Chihuahua mix, very happy and adorable. Her owner, Lesley, has a great network of support which I am now happily a part of. I joined The Trust to have quality time out with my son and a dog without having to own one and we're now close with Lesley and very attached to Titch! After building up trust with our new canine friend we enjoy long walks off the lead and she is making lots of waggy friends on our local beach and in woody parks. Lesley is hugely appreciative of The Trust's work and cannot thank us enough for the time we give to walking her gorgeous dog. We even have lovely tasty pressies from Titch on special occasions! The Trust does great work and benefits everyone involved.



Titch

Titch is a quirky little dog, she knows it's me when I come to the front door as I hear her excited barking that will not stop until the door is answered. Once inside she tears back indoors and lies on her belly dragging herself along the floor and rolls over for a tickle. Titch gets very excited around big dogs and likes them to know she's there by hanging about just under their chin and looking up at them.

Lesley told me that although Titch had lots of local town walks she had not spent much time at the beach or our local Stanley Park in Alverstoke. At first Titch was reluctant in her new surroundings but soon perked up and led me along the wooded park pathways and beach front. She relishes the beach and if ANYONE picks up a stone to throw, she is there asking for another and woe betide anyone who does not deliver. She especially likes our stops for ice cream but never begs, just looks at me longingly waiting for a crumb! Titch had rarely been off the lead

until I found a quiet area of the park and tested her recall. Amazingly she stuck by my side and halted immediately at my command 'here!' However, she tends to ignore me a bit when it's near to tea time so I send my son off after her!

When we get home there's time to catch up with news of our families with Lesley who, with Titch, is a part of our lives now.



And this is from **Zoe Swanson** in Devon:

I have been volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust for 8 years now and I love supporting such a fantastic charity. My mum works for The Trust at the head office in Cornwall and when I first heard about the amazing things which the charity offers I really wanted to do my bit. Living away from home at university at the time, I found it really rewarding to volunteer with my spare time. I have also been lucky enough to be given the opportunity to volunteer at Crufts for a number of years,



Angus

this is my favourite time of the year – I am in my element!! Talking to people about The Trust and getting the word out there, as well as lots of cuddles with Great Danes!! My family have always long-term fostered Cinnamon Trust dogs, we have had two beautiful Newfoundland cross breed dogs.

Most recently I have started walking Angus who is the cutest fluffiest dog I have walked! He is always happy to see me and always running for his lead as soon as I walk in the door. His owner Jean and I get on really well and always have a chat (when Angus will let me!) when I go and pick him up, but get a better opportunity to catch up once he is tired and in the garden after the walk.

I would recommend walking a Cinnamon Trust dog to anybody, it gets you outside and you get to meet very lovely people with amazing stories to tell.



Lots of views from the **Perry family** in Nottinghamshire. First, Mum **Ninja**:

I joined the Cinnamon Trust this year because my daughter Minnie desperately wanted a dog and we are not currently in a situation to get one. I suggested to Minnie that we might do some volunteer dog-walking, and that if she was consistent with coming along for all the walks we might be able to consider getting a dog of our own in the future. Minnie has joined me for every walk, and it turned

out that her younger sister Holly was just as dedicated.

Initially we were walkers for a Bichon Frise called Sukie and then for a Jack Russell called Schmka (who we still walk once a week). When we got the call from The Trust asking if we could be 'emergency walkers' for Mrs. Wallace and her two dogs, Bella and Sally, the girls were delighted saying "now we'll have one dog each!" They weren't disappointed, the dogs are a delight, as is Mrs. Wallace who we always enjoy chatting with.



Minnie and Holly with Bella and Sally

We have been walking Bella and Sally twice a week for several weeks now and have enjoyed every minute. Last week as we were heading out Mrs. Wallace said "I love the Cinnamon Trust, you don't just get dog walkers, you get friends" – I couldn't agree more!

Now **Holly** (age 8) says:

The best thing about walking Bella and Sally is me and my sister Minnie both get to walk a dog each and Bella is always lively but Sally is quite slow and loud at the start but gets quieter. Also, Bella licks my face as soon as we open the door and always jumps up on me, Mrs. Wallace says Bella doesn't actually do it to anyone else! Later on in the walk Sally unexpectedly stops which is very cute and we decide to sit with her for a little stroke. Mrs. Wallace is really nice and once I decided to bring my harp in that I play and the dogs even decided to sit down and listen! Mrs. Wallace says she loves music and she wants my sister to bring in her violin. I love Mrs Wallace and her dogs.

And **Minnie** (age 10) says:

Walking Sally and Bella has made me love dogs even more than I already did. They are both very excited when me, my sister Holly and mummy knock on the door. Sally starts barking happily and Bella loves to jump up on us, nearly knocking us over! When we attempt to put their harnesses on them they both make a huge fuss of it, Bella even going as far as biting it, just to be annoying! Sally and Bella love to go out and practically pull us to the gate! As for Mrs. Wallace, she is lovely to us and usually gives us a 'little sweetie' as she calls it, then she gives us a huge bar of Ripple! She's truly wonderful.

Justine Williams (Staffordshire) writes:

I had been thinking about volunteering for a while but wasn't really sure what I wanted to do. I saw a poster in my local vets and The Cinnamon Trust seemed perfect. Our family had wanted a dog for a long time but due to working commitments it would have been too difficult and we also have a 16 year old big fluffy rescue cat called Saffron who is frightened of her own shadow so a dog was completely out of the question. The Cinnamon Trust gave us the chance to walk a dog and for myself and my daughters to get some exercise and fresh air but the owner had the peace of mind of knowing that she got to keep her pet but she was getting a walk a few times a week.



Millie

I registered with The Cinnamon Trust and kept checking the website to see if a dog local to us would soon need walking. It only took a few weeks when I saw that a Bedlington Terrier required urgent walks in Audley. After doing some checking to see how far that was I took the plunge and contacted The Trust and said we would be available to walk Millie. I can honestly say it is the best thing I have ever done. Evelyn Wingrove (Millie's owner) was recovering from a serious stroke and operation and was unable to take her beloved Millie out anymore. I went along one Friday to introduce myself and to meet Millie and we immediately got on. I took her out for a small walk on my first visit and have never looked back.

At first I walked a couple of times a week as I only worked part time but I now work full time in school so I go every Saturday morning and as much as I can in the school holidays. My daughters regularly come with me and we spend a lovely 45 minutes taking her out. We didn't know the area at all but over time have found lots of lovely places to take her. She is an absolute pleasure to walk and is no problem on a lead. She isn't over keen on other dogs and does bark a lot when we bump into any but I have discovered the distraction of a meat chew works a treat!

I have grown very fond of Evelyn and often spend a few more minutes chatting with her to give her some company or I put her washing out or make up her bed. She never asks me to but a few extra minutes on my day makes no difference but it makes a huge difference to her. I know she would dearly love to be fit enough to walk Millie again but if that isn't possible I will walk Millie for as long as I am needed.

Julie Wolstenholme (Kent) wrote to us:

My name is Julie Wolstenholme and I am the daughter of Mrs Joyce Quinn. We spoke on the phone briefly when I was at Mums. The Cinnamon Trust has been very kind to Mum and made it possible for her to keep her beloved dog Lucy with her. Mum is now 89 years old and unable to walk Lucy herself, but with the kind help of Cinnamon Trust volunteers Lucy is very happy and being walked every day. One day when Mum had to attend a hospital appointment, she had NHS transport booked to take her. The Paramedic who attended Mum was a chap called Steve. He helped Mum into the house afterwards and of course met Lucy, he was very taken with her and Mum told him all about The Cinnamon Trust. He was very interested and told her he wanted to



Lucy

apply to be a volunteer. He has done that and gone through all the checks and is now a happy volunteer for The Trust. In fact he is booked to help Mum and will be taking Lucy for her walks when her regular volunteers Aileen, Derek, and Eileen are on their annual holidays. So this is a good news story and we wanted to share it with you.

And **Steve Clifton's** view:

Well where do I start.....I met Joyce last year whilst working as a Patient Transport Care Assistant. We had arrived at Joyce's house and I recall jokingly asking Joyce 'Hope you don't have a big dog' As I opened her door, that's when I met Lucy for the first time. I then left Joyce and went into the front room where I ended up playing ball with Lucy in the lounge.

Joyce loves and cherishes the companionship that Lucy gives and I am pleased I am able to walk such a lovely dog for her. She is so well behaved, good natured, and a well-trained dog. Lucy now recognises my car when I pull up outside Joyce's house, and waits eagerly wagging her tail at the front door knowing she about to go for a walk.

I've in turn got to know Lucy's 'naughty look' - this became clear one day when I was out with her and she ran straight across the beach and into the sea! Closely followed by myself frantically trying to keep up with her. I can see that Joyce is pleased and more than grateful that her faithful companion is getting her walks and that she is able to keep Lucy by her side, even though on more than one occasion we have perhaps stayed out longer than we should.

Whilst out with Lucy people have remarked how lovely and well natured she is, and that's when I explain all about the Cinnamon Trust and valued work they do in supporting elderly and disabled people who need help and support with their pets. I thoroughly enjoy walking Lucy, It pleases me that I am able to help Joyce keep her companion that she so loves and adores.



Tanya Hill in Kent writes:



Tilly

I was first contacted by The Cinnamon Trust in September 2016 about Carol and Tilly – Carol had just moved to the area to be closer to her family, and had a little Chihuahua called Tilly to keep her company while she was still making local friends. Carol has MS, and as such, Tilly requires an army to walk her!

I met Andrew (one of Carol's sons), and we took Tilly out for a short walk to get her used to me – it was a cold, rainy, wet day, and Tilly wasn't all that enthusiastic about being outside the house, let alone being forced to walk on the wet ground...

Andrew set up a website with a weekly rota, and along with a small team of other helpers, we all pick some time each week to walk Tilly. It wasn't long before I recruited my Mom to join the team and we often walk Tilly together, taking her along to Fleet Pond and Oakley Park.

We always stop in for a chat with Carol and catch up on her week, checking in to make sure she's got everything she needs and that Tilly has been behaving herself. Shortly after Carol moved to the area we went on the hunt for a waterproof jacket for Tilly – eventually, we found one, although it does drown her a little bit!

Tilly is a very determined little dog, and more often than not, she likes to get her own way. Often we will be walking and she will suddenly decide she no longer wants to walk that way and will dig her feet in. She can be very stubborn, and if she doesn't like the direction you're going in, she will make it very difficult to make any progress. Sometimes we have to try and shoo her along a bit so she will actually do some walking. She hates the cold and the rain (don't we all?!) and it's always a struggle to coax her out in the winter, but we've now learned that she enjoys the company of other dogs, and sometimes take my two dogs out with us. In those instances, she HAS to be at the front of the pack, and any resistance to

walking quickly disappears.

When we walk into the flat to pick Tilly up for her walk she is always very excited to see us, and at the end of the walk she always waits patiently for her treat for surviving the outdoors. She is particularly afraid of pigeons, owls, bushes, alleyways, cars, the dark... in fact, I'm sure the only thing she enjoys is the human and dog company she has a chance to see!

Carol and her family are always extremely appreciative to everyone that walks Tilly, and have often done little things to show this – they got us all Team Tilly fleeces last year for Christmas, got some eggs for us at Easter and even did a shout out on Paul O'Grady's show on the radio last year. It's been such a pleasure to have met Carol, Tilly and family, and we always look forward to our walks with Tilly (even when it is very cold!), because we enjoy catching up with Carol too.

Through having met Carol we've also met some more lovely local people, and even have a WhatsApp group which we all chat on. Being given the opportunity to walk some local dogs for The Cinnamon Trust has given me the opportunity to meet some really lovely people and I truly look forward to my walks each week."

And **Andrew Reed** says:

I was first introduced to the Cinnamon Trust via a friend's recommendation and a quick search of google. As a family, we were in need.....Due to ill health, we'd recently moved our mother down from a small town in Lancashire to an assisted living property in Fleet, Hampshire so she could be closer to us, Fleet being in between us in London and West Sussex. Her needs are very specific and during the transition phase, my siblings and I were dealing with all her care needs, while also making sure Tilly, her small four legged friend was suitably fed, watered and walked.

Our mum is unable to walk, and as her health has deteriorated in recent years, so has her ability to socialise. Having lost a cat a number of years ago, she became desperate to have a little dog for company. In came Tilly – a tiny Chihuahua.

She's been a marvel, and as her care package was established the carers were all happy to take their share of walkies duty. Sadly in Fleet, this was another story. We began to realise that care agencies were just not willing to entertain looking out for her, so here was our problem - how do we get her out and stretch her little legs?

Luckily, The Cinnamon Trust came up trumps, and has helped provide a couple of local dog walkers. One even managed to rope her mum in to join. We now have a little army of walkers – the self-titled 'Tilly Army' who come by every day to help. It's much more than just walking though, the social interaction that the walkers have provided mum has been wonderful, and they are always so keen to provide

extra assistance or local advice.

I'm amazed that people would be willing to give so much of their own time for what were total strangers, and can't thank both them and The Trust enough for putting us in touch. I know Tilly appreciates it too – whenever the door intercom goes and she recognises one of the walkers voices, she jumps straight up.

A big thank you from The Reed family.



Mark Smith (Somerset) says:

My sister Sharon was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer on her 62nd birthday in February 2016. Just a couple of months before she had rehomed a dog called Skye who had health issues herself and was in danger of being put to sleep. Sharon would not let that happen and nursed Skye until her health was reasonably stable.

Unfortunately Sharon's health was deteriorating faster than expected and it wasn't long until she was finding it hard to walk Skye. Sharon contacted The Cinnamon Trust who kindly helped her by assisting with volunteer dog walkers. Before too long Sharon was having more and more stays in hospital and with the help of family, friends and The Cinnamon Trust was managing to look after Skye. Sharon realised this was not beneficial for Skye's own health and agreed she should be rehomed so she could see her settled elsewhere before the inevitable happened.

It was now September and Sharon was in a hospice so we contacted The Cinnamon Trust. We spoke to a lovely lady called Marnie who agreed when we had Skye in our possession to contact her and she would work on finding Skye a good home. Sadly, the day we went to see Sharon and collect Skye from the lady who was looking after her there was a tragic accident and Sharon lost her life.

We now had a race to rehome Skye as we have two dogs ourselves. We collected Skye as planned and bought her home and immediately contacted The Cinnamon Trust. Skye was clearly pining for Sharon which exacerbated her own health problems. From that moment (which was Saturday) The Cinnamon Trust worked to find her a home. Immediately we were informed a couple were waiting for a dog to come available and regardless of her health issues were eager to give her a home. Skye was beginning to get very poorly but the Clarks and The Trust were so good and we went ahead.

Mary and Kelvin were eager to get Skye so they could take care of her health issues immediately with their own vet. On Monday morning we took Skye to Mary

and Kelvin's home. They were immediately smitten. Their other dog Lily looked pleased too. Mary gave me and Skye a hug and I knew Sharon would be happy. Skye has had extensive vet treatment and is on a special diet both of which are funded by the Cinnamon Trust. Mary and Kelvin have been supportive of us in letting us visit and phone for updates on Skye's progress. It's time now to let Skye go in the comfort of knowing she has landed on all four paws and found her foster home with Mary And Kelvin and we cannot thank them enough.

As for The Cinnamon Trust and Marnie, what you did for us was truly amazing. We cannot thank you and your organisation enough. Until this tragedy we had no idea The Cinnamon Trust existed but without people like you to help in hours of need the world would be a poorer place. So from Sharon, Skye and myself thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

And **Mary** and **Kelvin Clarke** write:



Mary and Kelvin with Skye and Lily

My husband and I were looking for a second dog for our Red Setter, Lily. I heard via a friend of The Cinnamon Trust who might be able to help and enable us to give a dog a good home and perhaps a second chance in life. It wasn't long after we contacted them we got a call about a dog needing a home.

A family member Mark, brother of a deceased sister who owned the Lurcher "Skye", brought her to us via The Trust. When she arrived she was not very well and was regularly sick. Mark said that she had always had a stomach problems and because of the stress she had recently suffered this had brought her low. We took her to the vets immediately and after a period of intensive care by the vets and us she fortunately recovered. I cannot imagine how much that initial treatment cost, thank goodness we were supported by The Trust!

It was not long before we began to see that she was a very sweet and loving dog that just loved life. She and Lily are inseparable and hare round the garden together, not very ladylike! We regularly take Lily to the beauty parlour and when Skye was feeling better we took her along for the ride. As a hardy lurcher we did not think she would need a groom. Well! She made her opinions very clear on that matter, she was not at all happy with watching Lily being pampered. So now Skye joins Lily and has her bath and her nails done. Very ladylike!

We would like to thank a few people who have helped support us with Skye. Firstly, Sarah at The Trust, she was marvellous when Skye was ill and really helped

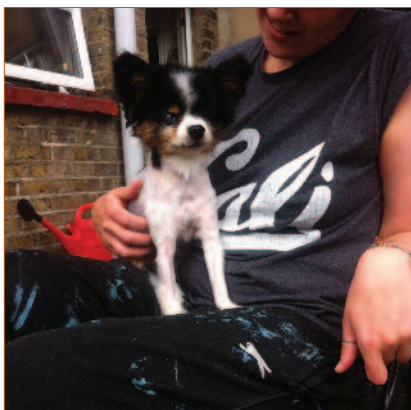
us through a difficult time. We would also like to mention Linda Mortimer one of your volunteers who has been very helpful. Lastly, The Cinnamon Trust for giving us such a lovely girl and helping to support her financially, she may have cost a small fortune to you but she is priceless to us.



Molly Bridges from Surrey writes:

I became a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust some time ago and have had a couple of short term foster dogs, never thinking I would need to ask for help myself.

I have always been passionate about The Cinnamon Trust and all that it stands for and tell people about the charity whenever I can. I have two long term foster dogs & my own dog, which I had previously completed a pet profile on. The CT dogs are Jamie - a feisty Papillion and Mica a couch potato Chihuahua. My own dog is Sparky a Yorkie x Pomeranian with a nervous disposition.



Jamie

On the 10th May Jamie, who has only one good eye, developed an ulcer which required surgery & eye drops 5 x per day. He is not a very good patient and it was a struggle to persuade him that the drops were for his own good and would save his good eye.

On the 12th May disaster struck! That morning I missed a step on my stairs, falling badly & fracturing a hip. I managed to struggle to the phone to call an ambulance and then the panic struck in, what will I do with the dogs??? I was sitting on the floor waiting for the ambulance and becoming more and more distressed.

Then a light bulb moment - call The Cinnamon Trust! My main concern was about Jamie due to his medical needs and his recent operation. The Trust were amazing and calmed me down. They spoke to a friend and arranged for her to take a key, they arranged for Jamie to be taken care of by a very experienced pet carer and a lovely volunteer took Sparky & Mica into their home. Most of this was arranged before I got into the ambulance so I knew that everything was under control and my lovely dogs were in safe hands.

Staff at The Cinnamon Trust have kept me informed at every stage putting my mind at rest which has helped me to recover so much quicker. I am writing this

from hospital and am looking forward to being home with my dogs and The Cinnamon Trust have already arranged dog walkers - marvellous!!

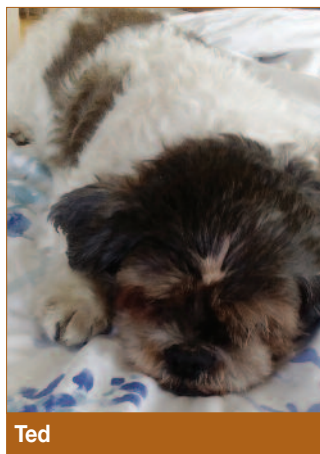
I want to say a big “thank you” to the volunteers who helped (Justine, Alison and Debra) and the staff at The Cinnamon Trust who responded so quickly to an emergency situation in looking after the needs of each dog.



Another emergency.... A view from **Sue Butler**, one of our Emergency Co-Ordinators at HQ, who writes:

Record for the fastest foster ever!! 9.20 am Saturday 24th June.

I was proceeding in an orderly manner when the on call phone rang and it was Sebastian Von Habsburg (Middlesex) asking for help with his 15 year old Shih Tzu, Ted. His doctor had sent him a letter telling him to report immediately to A & E as he had a thrombosis in both lower legs and was in danger of losing his legs or his life!



Ted

I took his details as quickly as possible and discussed Ted's temperament, very placid. Fortunately there was a volunteer, **Maria Militelo**, available and just over a mile away. I called her and she agreed to help. From taking the call to on her way to collect Ted was 32 minutes. Sebastian was most grateful and said he didn't know what he would have done without us.

Ted returned home a few days later and took up his favourite spot and went to sleep!



Marnie Cude, our Emergency and Urgent Care Manager writes:

On the 23rd March our volunteer Eileen Webb in Southampton called our Emergency Line. She wanted to know if we had any information regarding June Graham the lady she dog walked for, she had heard from a neighbour that June had passed away.

The emergency co-ordinator Linda Collins called June's home phone and there was no answer. She then called all the contacts we had on the system including

June's carer, Jenny. She confirmed that she had found June dead at home and because it was a death at home the police were involved and they had called the RSPCA to collect June's 3 dogs! The dogs were Digby, Jack Russell aged 19, Sky the Westie aged 10 and Lola a Chihuahua x aged 7.

We updated Eileen and the other walkers and they echoed our horror - none of us could bear that these dear dogs would be in a kennel situation after experiencing such a trauma. We had to get them into our care! Eileen also pointed out that Lola did not get on at all well with Digby and Sky and said that they were always kept separately in June's home to stop them fighting. We could only hope that they would get along if they were in a kennel together.

The following day Zoe took over from Linda and started making calls trying to locate where June's dogs had been taken, this took hours. Zoe eventually found them and spoke to Alison at The Stubbington Ark RSPCA – she said she would have to ask one of her managers to ring back before agreeing to let Digby, Lola and Sky come into our care

After much wringing of hands and calls trying to chase the RSPCA for an answer, we eventually got the call from the Animal Centre Manager Stephanie to say that they were more than happy for us to have the dogs and we could collect whenever we were ready. She also wanted to thank us for everything and said how pleased they were that they were going to The Cinnamon Trust. They also said that they had to separate Lola from Sky and Digby as she was bullying them.

We were on our way!!!

Now, over to our short and long-term foster volunteers – first, **Barbara Peat** in Cornwall says:

I asked The Cinnamon Trust to consider me for any other dogs that might come



Digby and Sky

up for adoption, not really hoping that I would be lucky enough to get another Westie, and also (on being asked if I would consider any other breed of dog) said that I would be happy to give a home to any little dog that might need one, with the possible exception of a Jack Russell!.

It was a week or two after that, that The Trust contacted me to say they had an urgent long-term foster

case, but for two little dogs - one was a ten or eleven year old female Westie named Sky and the other was a very elderly Jack Russell called Digby and they needed to stay together and would I be prepared to help. This needed some thinking over, but, knowing that there were two little dogs out there who needed care, and also thinking that 'very elderly' probably meant not very energetic, I agreed to take them and a few days later Digby and Sky travelled from Southampton to Cornwall with their Cinnamon Trust dog walkers, Elaine and Caroline. I was somewhat apprehensive about taking on a JR because I wasn't that fond of the breed, but, within minutes of getting out of the car, Digby had won over not only my heart, but my neighbours' heart and her family's hearts too!

Sky (who it turned out was really called Lulu and is now known by her original name), is totally deaf, but doesn't let that stop her doing anything and although much quieter in nature than Digby, is the one who 'mothers' him. Digby had the most appalling bad breath when he arrived but I was told that his previous owner had said that nothing could be done about it because he was too old for the major dental work that would be involved in curing it. Apart from that, he was basically a 17 year old puppy, always ready to greet new people and very affectionate.

Since I had already made arrangements to go on holiday about a month after Digby and Lulu arrived, my granddaughter kindly offered to house and dog-sit so that there wouldn't be any further upheaval to their lives. However, the day before I was due to arrive home, Digby started being sick and looking decidedly unwell. He was taken to the vet for a check-up because of his age, and the vet said that the state of his teeth was making him ill - there was so much infection in his mouth that he was swallowing it when he ate and becoming ill. She gave him treatment to get the level of infection down to a safer level and advised that dental treatment would be necessary.

After consultations between the Vets and The Cinnamon Trust, Digby had some tests done to enable everyone to decide whether or not he could undergo dental surgery, as a general anaesthetic would be required and there were some worries about his blood not clotting amongst other things, in addition to his advanced age. The tests came back with a medium risk level for his age, so Digby went in to have his teeth out a few days later. The surgery was very successful, thanks to the excellent care given, and, naturally, Digby won the hearts of everyone who looked after him. He is now like a new dog - within a day or two of coming home he was bouncy, hungry, full of fun and sweet of breath too! Lulu is still a quiet little dog, probably due to her deafness, but she seems to know that Digby needs less looking after now and is becoming a bit more independent-minded herself. The Cinnamon Trust were hugely supportive and paid for Digby to have his operation, which was a great relief for me because I'm not sure how I would have afforded it. Both Digby and Lulu enjoy their walks twice a day and it is so lovely to see them enjoying themselves and having the freedom to run out into the garden when they

want to. Lulu is full of energy and loves to run at the full extent of her extending lead when we are out.

And **Patricia** and **John Hughes** in Southampton sent this quickie to let us know how Lola was doing:



Lola

Lola arrived on Friday evening - kindly delivered by Elaine. And all has been well so far. Your package of calming products had also arrived on Friday, so they are all in use.

She is eating - but doesn't seem to be really 'gutsy' like Jess was - so the podge must just be down to lack of exercise, rather than being an over-eater, and with the way she loves to whoosh about in the park, I think she will lose the weight pretty easily. She doesn't beg either.

We think she's mainly Pomeranian (the 'Spitz' tail especially), rather than Chihuahua - but have looked up Pomeranian cross Chihuahuas online and found they are called 'Pomchis' which is really cute! She

seems to love to run (think I might have to be careful not to let her overdo it!), and is especially mad about tennis balls (had to be persuaded to give one back to another dog with a treat).

She can be aggressive with other dogs but once on the common this morning amongst lots of dogs at the pond there, she was fine having loads of fun dashing about and copying what they did. When a Springer Spaniel went swimming after a tennis ball, she decided to take the plunge as well!

She was reluctant to carry on with our walk away from this spot as she was having such fun, but does come when called. Obviously a water baby!



Fiona Swailes in Cheshire has fostered quite a few! She writes:

In May 2016 I was asked for help walking Buster, an 8 year old Shih Tzu whose owner Barbara Pimblott was disabled by a stroke. Barbara's District Nurse had heard of the charity. Not having been walked for many months, Buster was unfit and a little overweight. At first he could only walk a short way before puffing and panting but I took him out almost every day and we built up slowly. A year on he is running around on his walks and always excited to see me.

In early November 2016 Barbara broke a rib. The hospital advised she should only be in for a few days. Marnie from The Cinnamon Trust rang me and my first short term foster was arranged. Things didn't work out as first thought; Barbara was in intensive care for about 3 weeks before being moved to a ward. I sent her a note and photos of Buster, which the nurses said delighted her and reassured her he was fine. 7 weeks later, she was discharged home. Barbara's daughter said "I cannot thank you enough. He is in amazing condition and my Mum is over the moon to be reunited with him...thank you so much". Buster and I continue to go for daily walks.



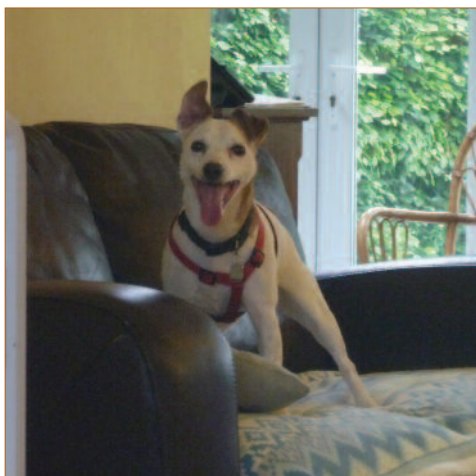
Buster

Buster had proved the perfect dog to introduce my husband and I to fostering, so I told the team I would be happy to take on other short term fosters as needed. In early March we took in 2 dogs for a few days – Pippa, a Staffie/Whippet cross and her pal Katie, a Jack Russell.



Mitzi and Lucy

I met my next Cinnamon Trust dogs through volunteering at a local kennels. The supervisor knew of the charity, so when a lady kennelled her dogs for a couple of weeks while in hospital after a fall the supervisor put the owner, The Trust and myself into contact. Mitzi the Shih Tzu and Lucy the Staffie X and I now go for a little stroll a few times a week, appropriate for elderly ladies of 13 and 14. Living on her own, Jean Hammond has registered her pets to go into Cinnamon Trust care should anything happen.



Bertie

Our 3rd foster is Bertie a 10-year-old Jack Russell. As I write this Bertie is with

us for a few weeks while his owner receives cancer treatment. Once his 'Mum' feels ready Bertie will be re-united with her.

As a cancer survivor myself I understand the importance of the peace of mind and practical help The Cinnamon Trust provides. Seven years ago I had successful treatment for cancer but was left with chronic fatigue. My GP recommended exercise, the last thing someone who feels exhausted 24/7 wants to do. A Google search for 'dog-walking-charity' turned up The Cinnamon Trust. The dogs are my therapy, my motivation to 'get up and go' whatever the weather, a way of looking outward to others not inward to myself. And of course, the regular exercise has improved my health and wellbeing 100%. Thank you, Cinnamon Trust. Thank you, doggies!



Jo Biddle (Devon) writes:

I called The Cinnamon Trust in distress as I had just been told my cancer had returned and it was aggressive. I was told that I needed to be admitted for immediate treatment and would be staying in until the following week for intensive chemo. I would then have a few days at home and this pattern would repeat for several months.



Teddy

Apart from my obvious reason for being upset my major problem was that I had just taken on an 18 month old little terrier called Teddy and had nobody to look after him. I had bought him from a newspaper and on reflection knew that was a silly thing to do. When I got to the house he was living in filthy conditions and despite my reservations I decided to get him out of there. I only found out when I got him home how many issues he had.

Linda and Marnie at The Trust were very patient and through the tears I listed what his problems were and as I went on I could hear myself thinking this is an impossible request and thought I would be turned away and I would have to put him to sleep.

Teddy has separation anxiety, he can be very destructive if left and will wee and poo everywhere. He howls all the time and is unneutered. He is not keen on men

and can growl but I doubt he would bite however I would not trust him near small children. Oh and he is a fussy eater! On the plus side he is very cute and very pretty, good with other dogs and cats. Loves a cuddle and very affectionate.

I was told that they would try their best, I just kept crying and was exhausted. I did not really expect anything to be done, I was asking the impossible.

At 2.25pm I had a call from The Cinnamon Trust. A lady called Sheila was coming round to collect Teddy and all his bits and he would then be on his way to a lady called Hansina who was an hour and a bit away but The Trust were confident that she could cope with Teddy and would work with him and try to address some of his problems. I could not believe it!!

When Sheila came I was still crying but she was very kind and reassuring. She said she has been a volunteer for many years and Teddy was in good hands so I took myself back to hospital. In shock for so many reasons.

At 4.30pm I had a call to say that Teddy was now with Hansina and she had said that he was a sweet little chap who had only eaten a little but had watered everything in sight, typical Teddy. In just a few hours so many people had come to my rescue.

I have no idea what the future holds for me but I do know in my heart that whatever happens Teddy will be ok with The Cinnamon Trust.



Christine Bird in Shropshire says:

My name is Christine, I am 95 years old, and I share my home with Libby, a beautiful little long haired dachshund. Libby is 14 years old, and has been my constant companion for 13 years of her life. It was difficult for her to understand that I had to be admitted to, and remain in, hospital for five weeks.

One of the nurses at the hospital told me about The Cinnamon Trust, and the wonderful service they provide. My daughter, who lives in Portugal, rang later the same day, and I told her about it, and asked her to contact The Trust to see if they could help me and Libby.



Libby

My daughter found The Cinnamon Trust website and was really impressed with the organisation, and so contacted them. She spoke to a charming and extremely helpful young woman called Natalie, who proved herself to be a Godsend.

Within hours she had organized a foster home for Libby, spoken to the hospital and me. Later the same afternoon Libby was taken to her foster home in Wrexham, where she spent a very comfortable and happy 'holiday' with Jennifer Griffin.

Jennifer telephoned me in hospital to let me know how Libby was faring, and it seems that Libby had made a particular friend in Danny, Mrs Griffin's own dog.

I was discharged just over a week ago and Natalie very thoughtfully arranged for Libby to come home a couple of days after my return to allow me to get used to being home again.

As though The Trust had not done enough already, Natalie has now arranged for Lindsey to take Libby for walks until I am strong enough to do it myself. Lindsey and Libby are enjoying their walks together, and like the other staff and volunteers of The Trust, Lindsey is an exceptionally nice person.

I really can't thank you enough for all your help in making a very difficult time quite a lot easier.



Pauline Grimes sends a great view from Merseyside:

I became a volunteer because of a chance remark, 'I would love to have a dog to walk but we travel a lot and it wouldn't be fair to keep putting a dog in kennels.' A member of a social group I meet up with then suggested that I should (like her) become a volunteer dog walker with The Cinnamon Trust. I looked at her blankly! She explained and told me to go onto the website. With great enthusiasm I registered, received my ID badge and then waited.



Molly

Shortly after this, in November 2013, I received a 'phone call asking whether I could walk Molly, an 8 year old Jack Russell, who lives five miles away. I went along the same day. At first it was just a short-term assignment and I didn't worry about the fact that I was due to go travelling for three months at the end of January. When I returned home I went to see Molly and her owner, Pauline. Molly was delighted to see me; she went rushing around the living room,

jumping on and off the furniture barking excitedly all the time. What a welcome!

It was through Molly that I got to know fellow volunteers Sylvia and Caroline. We each left our contact details with Pauline, asked her to pass them on and between us we made sure that she was walked every day.

When walking Molly we talked to other dog walkers or people who stopped to stroke and admire our little friend. It soon became clear that The Cinnamon Trust was relatively unknown in the North West. Caroline, Sylvia and I felt that we needed to try to raise awareness and recruit more volunteers perhaps raising some money in the process. We met for lunch and decided to give talks to local organisations and to run stalls at country fairs and fun dog shows etc. Whilst we know the amount of money we have raised, we do not know whether our efforts have resulted in more volunteers. Many people tell us that they think The Cinnamon Trust is wonderful, keeping owners and pets together; they take leaflets and say they'll tell their friends and some say they will register as volunteers - but we never know if they follow through.

When Pauline had to go into hospital she was very worried about what would happen to Molly. I contacted the Cinnamon Trust and offered to foster her; she stayed with us for three weeks on that occasion. She has stayed with us several times since. She is a small dog with a huge personality. She loves her twice daily walks and barks when she thinks I'm late taking her out. When we stroke her she rolls over to have her tummy tickled and she likes to snooze beside us with her head on our knees when we watch TV. When we talk to her she watches us with her bright eyes and she cocks her head as though she understands everything we say!

Recently we had a stall at a local fun dog show, so I decided to take her along and although at first she was rather overwhelmed by all the people and dogs, she soon settled down. We were able to explain that she was in short-term care at present; her presence seemed to make The Cinnamon Trust 'come to life' for those who came to our stall.

I decided to enter her in the 'Golden Oldie' competition for dogs over eight years old and to my delight she was given second prize (her certificate and rosette are now proudly displayed in our living room). After all this excitement she decided it was time for a rest and took a fancy to one of the small dog beds on sale on a stall next to ours. She settled herself comfortably and started to doze. I was very embarrassed and went to move her - but the stall owner said to leave her as she looked so comfy. As we were leaving she gave me the dog bed - I offered to pay but she refused.

Caroline, Sylvia and I now all walk other dogs apart from Molly, we have met up

with other volunteers along the way and six of us enjoy lunch together several times a year.

Through The Cinnamon Trust I have new friends - both human and canine and I have come to love a little dog who is assured of a long-term foster care home when the need arises.



Another emergency!

On Sunday 5th March our emergency line got a call from a lady called Philippa in Cheshire. Paramedics knocked on her door and asked her to take 2 dogs into her home. The ambulance crew were seeing to their owner right outside her house and wanted to make sure the dogs were safe. Apparently she had had a heart attack whilst walking her dogs.



Fiona with Pippa and Katie

Philippa had called lots of animal charities before us and nobody would help. She knew nothing about the dogs but said they were girls, friendly and a Jack Russell and a cross of some kind. She said that the lady and gone off in the ambulance and so she really needed our help ASAP because her cat was not happy! Our volunteer **Fiona Swailes** came to the rescue and went round to collect the dogs.

After investigation we found the owner, Michelle Reynolds, was in the Cardiology Unit and we were able to get a message to her that the dogs were safe and well, we also found out their names – Katie and Pippa. The following day she managed to call us herself, she was so grateful and could not believe how we had spurred into action.

Michelle sent us a note which reads “Dear Averil and The Cinnamon Trust I cannot speak highly enough of your volunteer Fiona who fostered my dogs when I was in hospital. They came home so happy and so obviously very well cared for. Please pass on my thanks to her and her husband for everything they did. I now have dog walking help from you and have made sure Katie and Pippa are registered to come to you in case anything happens to me. Thank you all so much”.

And Fiona said the girls were a dream to look after!

And another heart attack – **Jane Price** in Leicestershire writes:

Good Friday certainly lived up to its name this year for our family when we met Rebecca, another Cinnamon Trust volunteer, in a car park to pick up Rosko – an 11 year old Bassett Hound whose owner had had a heart attack. Never having met a Bassett in person we weren't really prepared for this huge, baggy sad looking fellow who seemed confused as to where on Earth he was. He took it all in his stride though when we hauled all 40kg of him onto the backseat and my son reassured him all would be okay.

Once home he had a good sniff (his favourite thing to do!) and met the rabbits (more sniffing)... Picked his favourite chair by the front window so he can watch the world go by and settled in for a nap.

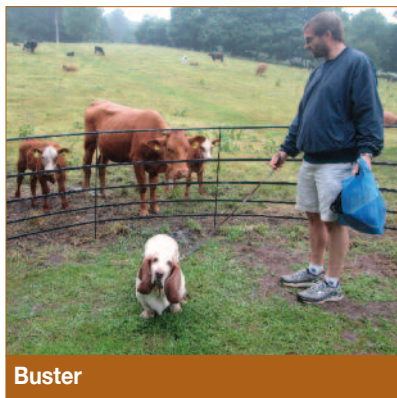
As Rosko came with no food and being nearly 10kg overweight we had a difficult task to find him a low fat diet he would approve of, a few taste testing sessions later we had it sussed and he loves his food and is 3.5kg lighter. We weren't even sure if he could do stairs with his big body and tiny legs but now the stair gate has come off and he plods up and down them with relative ease albeit he likes someone in front of him when coming downwards...probably thinks we will break his fall!

It's certainly been a learning curve. We quickly learned he likes to go to bed with the rest of the family and not downstairs, the first night he wanted his tummy stroked until he fell asleep but now he has decided on a spot in my son's room to have his bed and he sleeps peacefully.

He adores walks when he can meet other dogs, if there are none he will sit and wait until someone turns up! ...and has to roll every 100 yards!

He draws a crowd everywhere he goes and makes us laugh when he gets a sudden burst of energy and takes off with ears flapping for no reason whatsoever. He likes water and slid into the canal like a launching lifeboat and had to be helped out, but Rosko being Rosko had that dead-pan face as usual and couldn't see what all the fuss was about.

After being with us for about 5 weeks we heard that his owner had passed away. We were sad for Rosko that he wouldn't be reunited with her but he had become such a big part of our family



Buster

that we immediately knew that he had to spend the rest of his days with us. We hadn't been planning on getting a dog, and if we had been then I'm sure one that had breath that could floor a rhino and shed hair by the tonne weight wouldn't have been on our bucket list. However, we feel extremely lucky and blessed that fate crossed our paths with such a gorgeous soul as Rosko and that we will treasure our days with him for always. Thank you to The Cinnamon Trust for calling us and giving us such a wonderful gift as Rosko.



Now, let's catch up with a few of our other Cinnamon Pets in life-long foster homes. First, **Alison Williams** in Gloucestershire says:



Poppy and Tia

When I first met Tia, a Shih Tzu/Cavalier mix, I was asked to help The Cinnamon Trust by walking her and two other dogs for a lovely elderly lady, Cynthia. Tia was a rather chunky girl who was slow and needed regular walks to try and shift some of the weight. She came out with me on every walk I did and she also joined me on little weekend adventures. When Cynthia passed away the thought of never seeing her silly little face again made me realise I wanted her to come

and live with me. I thought I would need to convince my partner but later learned he was rather amused by my blatant attempts to fabricate a sob story when in fact he had already made up his mind and agreed with me.

I knew we had a big task of getting Tia's weight down from 18kg to 10kg and with the help of our super dog walker, we managed to make a real difference to her health and her weight soon started to go down. She's now nearly half the dog she used to be! With the weight coming off Tia began to come out of her shell and show a lovely cheeky side to her personality. She now loves to run on the hills and has a super chase game she plays with my 6 year old step-son.

When my husband and I got married in July 2016 we wanted Tia to be part of our special day. She is wonderful around people so we had no worries about her but we didn't realise exactly how well it would go down having a dog at a wedding - she was the star of the show and everyone adored her. Throughout the day she was taking herself off to different groups of people and mingling with all the guests as a good bridesmaid should. It was so lovely to have her with us and for her to be in all our wedding photos - there are more pictures of her than there are of anyone else!

Sometimes other dogs come to our house on foster or whilst their families are on holiday, as Tia and our dog-loving cats are always so accommodating we decided we would look for another dog needing a home. We adopted Poppy on November 11th 2016, a 10 year old rescue who has had a particularly horrendous past. Tia took to her really quickly and Poppy now looks to her for reassurance and comfort. Knowing how terrible Poppy's past was its lovely to see her so happy with another dog and she's learning from Tia that not all people are going to hurt her.

Tia came from such a loving home and I always felt we had a lot to live up to. I know it was a comfort to Cynthia to be able to keep her beloved dogs with her and also that she didn't have to worry what would happen to them. I will always be thankful to Cynthia for raising such a sweet gentle girl who is now helping other dogs like Poppy to learn to trust people again.

We are so grateful to Cinnamon Trust for introducing us to Cynthia and Tia and for the continued support and guidance, especially at moments of panic or when she needs medical help. The Cinnamon Trust provides such comfort and reassurance to owners at some of the darkest moments in their lives and it has been an honour to be part of the wonderful work they do.



Jo Wynn in Sussex is captivated by **Pippa**:

I have worked all my life as a heavy trauma counsellor, and to relieve the depth of the emotionally charged situations and clients that I worked with my dogs have always been my solace and comfort with the love, laughter and joy they have brought me. As a North American Lakota Sioux by birth I have had many beautiful creatures share my life, gerbils, hamsters, peruvian guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, peacocks, bantams,



Pippa and friends

ducks, crows, owls, snakes, iguanas, horses, cats and of course dogs. When I was younger I had Salukis, majestic dogs, and living near the South Downs exercise was never a problem. However getting older and after an accident when my pelvis was shattered I looked for a smaller breed. My first Pekingese, Muttley, in 1965 completely enchanted me and I was totally smitten for life.

Pekingese are truly exotic creatures, intensely loyal, heedless of danger and affectionately loving, very demanding, prone to depression and totally willful! I always said to The Cinnamon Trust if you ever have a Pekingese needing a home,

please think of me, so when the phone call came I was delighted and excited. Pippa came to us 14th January this year, so we have had the joy of this little girl for 8 months now. Suspicious at first she has gradually mellowed and now with my other four Pekingese she is relaxed and happy and I hope realises this is now her forever home. Her little face has lost its worried look, she sleeps upside down in any one of the many dog beds scattered around my home, or even on my bed. She snores well, eats very well, adores Richie my carer, loves walks, sunbathing and cuddles. She plays (so cute to watch) with Wichen her adopted sister, flirts with the boys, Grumplin and Impi and is incredibly gentle with my 17 year old boy Lube who is now blind. The joy and love she has brought into our home has enchanted everyone who visits.

I have had the honour of doing home checks for The Cinnamon Trust and have always been in awe of the wonderful work they do and how helpful and understanding they all are. Thank you Cinnamon Trust for your compassion, for your intense love and for the adorable precious little girl Pippa that you have gifted us with.



Rosie is blissfully happy in London with **Audrey Schoelhammer**:

It was small pieces of processed ham which brought Maxi the cat and Rosie the Staffie together. I'd had Maxi my Cinnamon Trust cat for six years so when I took on Rosie after her owner's death she was very much coming into his territory.



Rosie and Maxi

I'd been walking Rosie for six years for The Cinnamon Trust and when Irene her owner died they arranged for me to long-term foster Rosie as we were very bonded after all that time. Rosie was traumatised by her owner's death, so it was felt it would be good to have continuity for an anxious little Staffie who'd already had many upheavals in her life. Irene had adopted her from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and before that she'd been found tied up outside Peckham Police

Station. Rosie's a loving, loyal, playful, very sweet, sometimes needy little dog who's full of character and had been a wonderful companion to Irene, even saving her life once. Irene had collapsed one night and it was only Rosie barking her head off - which she never normally does - that alerted the neighbours who called the police who broke the door down and were able to get Irene to hospital.

I introduced Maxi and Rosie gradually, bringing Rosie to my place first for a visit and then a little more often so that Maxi could get used to her smell. It all had to be at Maxi's pace and when I finally brought them face to face I would sit them

both down and give them pieces of ham – Maxi first – so that they would always associate each other with it.

Maxi, although initially shy with humans, is an exceptionally affectionate cat. He'd lived most of his life with his friend Oscar, a handsome, gentle, shy Ginger Tom. I'd adopted them both from The Trust after their owner had died. They were devoted to each other; they went out and explored together, groomed each other and curled up in the basket together. When Oscar died at a grand old age Maxi was bereft. When I came back from the vet without Oscar Maxi sat and looked at me with what I swear were tears in his eyes as if to say, "What have you done with my friend?"

It took a while but Maxi rallied and was getting used to being the only pet so when Rosie arrived full of Staffie ebullience, his nose was initially put out of joint and he would sulk sometimes and stay out longer than normal. One day though, it was as if he'd decided in his cat-brain that he was going to assert himself and he came in after one of his long days out in the back gardens with a visible new determination to stand his ground.

About six weeks after her arrival Rosie was snoring her head off in her basket when Maxi carefully climbed in with her and wedged himself against her, something which now happens regularly; he cuddles up to Rosie and sometimes washes her face and ears. He's even been known to drape himself over Rosie's head and use her as a pillow, at which she never protests or moves a muscle but has sometimes given me a look as if to say, "He's on my HEAD!"

At meal times Maxi gets served first, and as Rosie inhales her food in one nano-second she finishes before Maxi; to stop her then stealing his meal I make her wait outside the kitchen when she's finished. She lies down, every fibre of her being concentrating on Maxi while he eats and when he finishes and turns to go, Rosie gets up, and as they pass in the doorway Rosie reaches her nose to Maxi's as if to say, "Thank you". Maxi regularly leaves a little food on his plate now which he never used to so I wonder if he's doing it for Rosie...?

It took a while for them to get used to each other but now when I see them sleeping peacefully with the sun shining in through the window and hear their snoring - Rosie sounding like a sailor on leave and Maxi's a more gentle hum and whistle - it was all worth it.



Poppy's story could have been a heartbreaker....

Poppy, a little terrier, will always have a special place in our hearts at The Trust,



Poppy

here is the start of her story.

We took a call from an ambulance crew who had been called out to a lady who had collapsed in the street and broken her hip. The lady had told them that she had a little dog at home who was not well and had skin problems, she was worried about her and had nobody to help care for her. We called Andrea Hunt one of our most experienced volunteers and she came to the rescue. When a friend dropped Poppy off to Andrea nothing could have prepared her for just how poorly Poppy was. Andrea was shocked, she was told she had a skin condition but Poppy's condition was awful she had very little fur and her skin looked sore.

Very long story short, we supported Andrea and paid for urgent vet treatment and started to treat Poppy with all the resources we had to hand, trying to make her as comfortable as possible. We had tried to speak to her owner but she was on medication and could not tell us much about Poppy's past treatment. She had been treated by a local vet but not for a long time. We also tried to speak to her son but he never returned our calls - we were working in the dark.

After a few weeks we were told that Poppy's owner was moving in with her son and Andrea took Poppy round to what we thought was going to be her new home. The next day we got a call from the vets we had been working with to help Poppy pleading for our help. The son had taken Poppy to the vets to be put to sleep!!

Helen Martin in Edinburgh continues her amazing story....

We first came across Poppy via a friend at work who is a Cinnamon Trust volunteer – she knew we had been looking for a rescue dog for a while and when she saw the appeal on Facebook for a forever foster home for Poppy, she sent me the link. When I saw her I immediately knew we were a good match for each other but worried our lack of experience and our location in Scotland would go against us, being so far away. I got twitchy waiting for Dave to get home and say 'yes' before I replied. I needn't have worried - Dave said yes and Moira soon got in touch to say she thought we would be perfect for Poppy, and so our preparations began. I had so many questions – Moira happily answered as many as she could and also put me in touch with Sam, Poppy's current foster mum who sorted me out with the rest. I've worked with various canids over the years in my role as Carnivore Keeper at Edinburgh Zoo, but Poppy is my first real experience of the domestic subspecies!

And then on a cold Scottish February morning we set off down the motorway on the 200-odd mile journey to Knutsford services, there to meet up with the lovely

Wendy who had bought Poppy up to meet us and after a brief introduction and a little walk around the patch of grass which Poppy blessed in the way that dogs do, she happily walked back to our car and hopped in. We were amazed at how readily she followed us, and how quickly she settled in once we got her home. In the following days Moira kept in touch to make sure we were getting on OK – everyone we had contact with throughout the process was so friendly and eager to offer help and advice, it was such a positive experience.

In the few months that Poppy has been with us, we've seen good progress with her skin condition. The first thing I did was to review her diet and after making changes, the flare-ups of really red skin and intense itching have completely stopped. Although she does still experience a little itchiness, our vet is impressed with her progress and has agreed that we can start experimenting with reducing her dose of medication. Her coat has thickened up well along her sides and forelegs, but the regrowth of fur on her belly and hind legs has been slow - the vet has suggested that the follicles may be damaged to the extent that it may never grow back.

But... all the better for belly rubs! Her second favourite thing after food and is the standard greeting now enjoyed by regular visitors. Even the post lady now that they've made friends, although until Poppy sees who's knocking, it's clearly best to have a little bark at the door, just in case. But Poppy's first love is unquestionably food! She is such a food fiend, we have to be really careful when we're out on walks as she will eat anything that even vaguely resembles something edible.

We were warned that she could be aggressive towards other dogs as she'd never really been socialised, and it took a while before we observed that for ourselves – Poppy did seem to have a particular aversion to Spaniels. Over time however she's become a lot more confident around other dogs and has learnt how to greet and behave around them properly. She really enjoys her training sessions at home, although she is somewhat less attentive when attempting to put them into practice in the great outdoors.

During the day Poppy alternates her time between naps on the sofa and keeping tabs on Dave while he's working - she often eyes him up bemusedly when he's flailing about with his VR headset on. Having Poppy around has been good for him as she forces him to take breaks away from his computer and get outside for fresh air. We've both explored new places with her as well as discovering new paths in places already familiar to us. We often find ourselves now walking with no destination in mind and also noticing the small seasonal changes along the routes we take regularly.

Poppy loves to have a really good sniff when I get in from work – so many weird and interesting scents to discover. It's so lovely to be greeted so enthusiastically

when I get home (sorry Dave – you're just not up to the job!). She gives a lot of love and completely fills our home with her presence, it's difficult now to imagine our lives without her.

Although we were told a little of Poppy's back story at the start, it was still a shock when we eventually saw the photo of her when she first came to the attention of The Cinnamon Trust. It is an absolute privilege to be able to give her a stable, loving and happy home as she approaches her twilight years and long may that time be.



And in Lincolnshire **Patricia Collins** and **Zebedee** have helped each other:

I lost my beloved Sooty in June 2014. Sooty was my little black cat, aged 21. She was 2 tiny kilogrammes of pure magic.



Zebedee

The house seemed so empty without her so I called The Cinnamon Trust to find out about fostering. Moira told me about Zebedee, home alone with a carer popping in and out because his mum was in hospital and she was very ill. He needed a foster mum. I thought he must be very lonely without his mum, all alone in the house, just like me without Sooty really but at least I understood what was going on. He arrived the following week in a pet taxi. The lady brought him in saying “you have a real beauty there, you’ll love him.” She wasn’t kidding, she opened the door of his carrier and out strolled this huge, beautiful black and white cat, who went to his food and water bowls, kicked the toy box over

and played with some toys on the rug, then jumped up on the sofa to help us eat our ham sandwiches.

I spoke to Moira to confirm he had arrived and she told me about his “absolute must haves” which turned out to be a jar of yeast spread and a telly to watch. Later that day I spoke to Zebedee’s carer who had been looking after him since his mum, Jo, had been in hospital and later on, I spoke to Jo. Both phone calls were very emotional but I was able to let them know that he was fine and happy and had already settled in.

That night I realised why Jo had named him Zebedee. I went up to bed, he was settled on the sofa, then he called out to me and I called to him from upstairs, he called back and the conversation carried on for a while “no you come up” “no you come down” then I heard footsteps on the stairs. When he reached the landing all four legs left the ground and, BOING, he jumped from floor to ceiling then

turned and charged down the stairs - several at a time! I went down and sat with him for a while, then I went back upstairs. It dawned on me that he had never seen stairs before because he had lived in a bungalow all his life. The next night I woke up and my eyes were drawn to the collection of soft toys over the other side of the bedroom and I thought, half asleep, that I didn't remember buying a new one. After staring, puzzled for a while, the new toy moved and it was my turn to jump 10 feet in the air, he then came and slept on the bed for the rest of the night. In the morning he had to negotiate the stairs again but found it easier to "bunny hop" down. He still does this.

He is still loving his yeast spread but he is very particular about the variety. The Health Food shop near my home closed down and I couldn't get it anywhere but managed to track it down at a health food store 70 miles away near my old home in Ruislip. So I set off one day to pick some up for him, when I got back after doing the 140 mile round trip my friend called and said "your stuff's come" – he had ordered it on line for us.

Jo and I became good friends and I visited her in hospital and later on in the hospice. What a lovely person. She loved hearing what Zebedee was up to, although it must have been so hard for her, she missed him so much. I can't begin to imagine what it really felt like for her. I sometimes used to drive to Lincoln to have lunch with her and stay for the afternoon. She gave me a photo album of Zebedee of when he was a kitten and told me all about the things he likes. It amused her when I told her Zebedee had already told me his likes and dislikes and what time he likes to eat. After comparing notes Jo and I concluded that he was an excellent trainer. He continues his "tuition" to this day with anyone who comes to the house, they get their induction course, including my brother who came over for a visit from Ireland recently and ended up fetching and carrying in no time at all. I am hoping the feral cats living in my brother's barn will be appreciative of all Zeb's efforts to educate him.

Zebedee settled in straight away. We had to get over the hurdle of him being too big for his cat flap to access the cat garden by knocking an even bigger hole in the wall where the flap was situated, I did get a little bit concerned when I saw the size of the hole in my wall but he loved his little garden as soon as he realised that he could fit through the cat flap. He is rather large and I found out he is a Maine Coon cross. He has the lovely temperament of the Maine Coon as well. So docile. Loves human company. He loves sitting with me and watching me type, he twinkles his toes as if he is typing as well.

The last couple of years have been eventful. We have been through a house move. He loves his new house, he settled as soon as he realised his sofa had come with him. I had an enclosed garden made for him to keep him safe and he thought it was very boring until I came home one day with topsoil and turf and

made him a lawn. He thinks it is great now. Another “event” was that he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a shock at first and I was angry on his behalf at what life had thrown at him. He had already had an operation on both eyelids as his eyelashes were growing inwards, what with losing his mum and now this as well. It meant a bit of an adjustment with his diet but God bless the pet food companies who make diabetic cat food very palatable, he loves it, and he can still have some treats and his yeast spread. We have got used to the routine now, he has a lovely pet sitter who is an absolute treasure when I am away and she is Zeb’s best mate. The people at The Cinnamon Trust have been very helpful with any advice I have needed and Zeb’s blood sugar has finally come down to normal.

I don’t know what I would have done without Zebedee after Sooty passed away. I used to sit with Sooty in the evenings as she was coming to the end of her life, I didn’t want to believe it was happening and I used to silently plead with her not to leave me.

Giving a home to a Cinnamon Trust pet is so rewarding. They are missing their owners and have had their little lives turned upside down. They will be feeling lost and need to feel secure again. It must also help their owners to know their beloved pet is being cared for, I hope Jo was at peace knowing that Zebedee was happy.

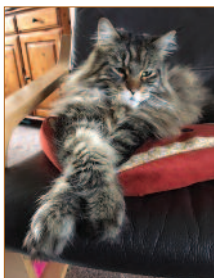
I love sharing my home with my beautiful boy. He is so affectionate and funny. I still miss Sooty and always will but I feel Zebedee and I have helped each other pick up the pieces of our lives and we are doing fine.

He is 14 now, we have been together for three years. He’s my boy and life without him is just unthinkable.



Lucy Tanser in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne fosters **O’Shea** and **O’Malley**:

When our old cat Macavity (we are dentists) died aged 16 we knew we would eventually want to get another cat. We always wanted to re-home an adult cat and we really wanted a fluffy cat like Macavity.



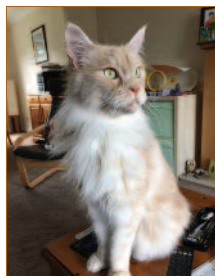
O’Shea

I had always fancied a Maine Coon and I contacted the Maine Coon Society website and they put me in touch with Moira at The Cinnamon Trust, she apparently had contacted them as they had two bereaved Maine Coons needing a lifelong foster home. I had never heard of you but what a great charity!! I knew then that we wanted to support The Cinnamon Trust.

They sent pictures the same day of O’Shea & O’Malley aka “Os

and Om” and we said we were very interested.

The fostering went ahead with the amazing support of Moira and the short term fosterer, Tracy, who does an amazing job as a volunteer fosterer at emotional cost to herself and was so accommodating! Moira was great at telling us the good and less good points about them both so we could make an informed and sensible decision.



O'Malley

I would wholeheartedly recommend fostering for The Trust - not only do you have a wonderful pet to love but also huge satisfaction knowing you have eased someone's burden at a very difficult time.

Om and Os have settled in well and we all love them!



Basil has made himself at home with **Sue** and **Steve Hussey** in Warwickshire:

When Basil's elderly owner was taken to hospital in an ambulance, he remained alone in her house with her former carer dropping in to look after him, as his owner's only next of kin lived thousands of miles away. This was when The Cinnamon Trust stepped in, days before Christmas 2016, and asked if my husband and I could look after Basil while his owner was in hospital.



Basil

What a lovely Christmas gift Basil turned out to be! He hopped into my husband's arms as he picked him up to put him in the car, and when we arrived home Basil walked into the kitchen and straight away drank from the bowl of water we'd put down for him. He made himself at home from the outset, almost as if he'd chosen us to be his new owners. Within 2 hours he'd eaten his first meal with us and was ready for his walk, which he really enjoyed.

It was clear that he had been deeply loved by, and close to, his owner as he trusted us completely and interacted well with people. He's such a loving and well behaved little fellow – the only matter we had to sort out was his wish to sleep on our bed, as he had clearly done with his previous owner, but within a few days he had forgotten about the bed and slept happily right through the night on his pad beside our bed. By day he follows me around like my shadow.

We hadn't intended to have another dog permanently, but we fell so much in love with Basil (and vice versa we suspect), that when we were told his owner would not

be returning to her home, we had no hesitation in telling The Cinnamon Trust that we wished to become his permanent new home. A trip to the vets revealed that Basil was in good basic health despite having limited eyesight and hearing, and his chip revealed he was 13 years old albeit very spritely! He enjoyed a Spring break on the Norfolk coast with us, easily managing 6 or 7 miles a day walking and getting really excited when we picked his lead up for the next walk.

At Basil's age there is always the risk that he won't be with us long term, but in the few month's we've had him he's given us enough love and pleasure for a lifetime and we wouldn't have missed having him for the world.



In Manchester **Davey** cast his spell on **Shelley-Ann Harvey**:



Davey

A few years ago both me and my husband had signed up as volunteers for The Cinnamon Trust after reading an article in the Guardian. We had both grown up with dogs but didn't feel we had the time to have our own so it was perfect for us. One day my husband took a phone call from The Cinnamon Trust office asking for urgent help for a retired greyhound whose owner had been taken into hospital suddenly. He was currently being cared for short term by another volunteer, Jenny, who lived a few miles away but she lived on her own and wasn't able to give him quite as much time as she felt he needed. My husband immediately said yes!

I came home from work and my husband was looking a little sheepish, 'ermm, there's someone coming to stay with us' he said, and within about 20 mins a huge dog called Davey was at our door! We only live in a small house, and not knowing the first thing about greyhounds and their lazy ways my first thought was "Oh my God, he's so tall & will need so much space & exercise and we can definitely help in the short term but not forever."

Jenny was clearly very fond of him & left us her contact details and we promised to stay in touch.

Sadly Davey's original owner passed away, The Cinnamon Trust office stayed in touch and said they would continue to look for a permanent home for him, but in the meantime he made himself nicely at home with us and we grew to love him and learn more about greyhound ways.

We learned quite quickly that he wasn't a long distance walk dog, he was equally happy with a short walk but quickly got very bored on a long ramble - a friend of

ours thought he'd take him along on a bike ride along a coastal road, after 30mins Davey sat down and refused to go any further - we had to drive and pick them up!! I got nosey looking into his race history by looking up the tattoos in his ears, I found out his racing name was Nervous Dave, he'd run in 49 races, and had won 15 of them - it was definitely time for him to put his furry feet up in retirement!

So we called The Cinnamon Trust and let them know they could stop searching for a permanent home for Davey, he'd found himself a comfy home with us and was stopping put. Jenny who looked after him before has stayed in touch and often looks after him for us if we're going away.

Greyhounds really are the most gentle, lazy & lovely dogs, I knew nothing about the breed before he appeared in our lives but we wouldn't be without him now. I think because of their speed they're very misunderstood and people (myself included before!) think they need a lot of exercise and stimulation, which couldn't be further from the truth, he's the laziest dog I've even know!

He's still going strong at 13 years old and I'm so glad my husband took a chance and said yes when we had that phone call to ask if we could find space for him.



A happy story of coincidence now from **Wendy Jennings** in Cornwall:

Following the death of my Father in August 2005, my Mum struggled with her grief. Hardly surprising when they had been married for nearly 50 years. The family suggested that she buy a dog and within a short time, Toby came into her life as an 8-week-old puppy.

Toby is a West Highland Terrier and arrived into her home as a beautiful fluffy white ball of fun. It soon became apparent that this was just what my Mum needed and it wasn't long before the whole family could see what a positive influence he had on her life.

For many years, they lived happily together and he became a (if not the) key figure in her life but unfortunately my Mum's health started to deteriorate. Initially she developed problems with arthritis but was subsequently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. My Mum battled to keep up with his twice daily walks but as time went by she was no longer able, or indeed, it was no longer safe, for her to do so.



Toby with Wendy and Mum

Toby was such a big part of her life that it wasn't an option for her to lose him so the family turned to The Cinnamon Trust for help. They were able to provide some volunteers, who together with friends and a dog walker, managed to set up a walking rota to ensure Toby had the walks he needed. It was wonderful to know that they could remain together and indeed, being able to keep Toby, probably enabled my Mum to continue to live in her home for as long as she did.

However, this year her mobility worsened; she started to have some falls and it was following one of these that she was admitted to hospital. Again, the family contacted The Cinnamon Trust who were able to provide a volunteer to look after Toby whilst Mum was in hospital. Luckily, she had not badly hurt herself but she finally realised that it was no longer safe for her to stay in her own home as she had had been struggling to cope even with carers going in to help. She agreed it was time to go to a care home but of course she wanted to take her beloved Toby.

The family looked for a place where they could be together but because of mum's health needs we were unable to find somewhere that could care for her and Toby. However, they did find a vacancy at Redannick in Truro and arranged for someone to come to the ward and do an assessment. This took over an hour but it went very well and they agreed that Mum could move in with them. "That's lovely" she said, "And of course I'll be able to bring Toby?" The member of staff had to say sorry but that would not be possible at which my Mum's face just fell.

Just as this happened, one of the Health Care Assistants, Karen, happened to be standing at the end of the bed. "What kind of dog is Toby?" she asked, to which Mum replied "A Westie". "Well" she replied, "If you would like, I will rehome Toby. It's quite strange actually because I have just been home checked by a local charity to take a dog from them. I live just around the corner and I'll bring him to see you as often as I can". What an amazing moment that was. It brought tremendous relief to everybody – nobody could quite believe what had just happened.

I telephoned The Cinnamon Trust to let them know that Mum was not going to be able to return home and that Toby was going to be rehomed. I recounted the story of the incredible coincidence of one of the assistant nurses being at the foot of the bed when Mum was told that Toby could not come with her to Redannick and had offered to rehome him so Toby could stay a part of her life. I was then told "that's a co-incidence we have just home checked a nurse that works there her name isn't Karen is it?"..

To put it bluntly I was gob-smacked!

I was told that as Karen had passed her home check that Toby could be fostered through The Trust. They also went on to tell me how Karen would not only be supported both financially with vet's bills but also with help to look after Toby should

she want, for example, to go on holiday.

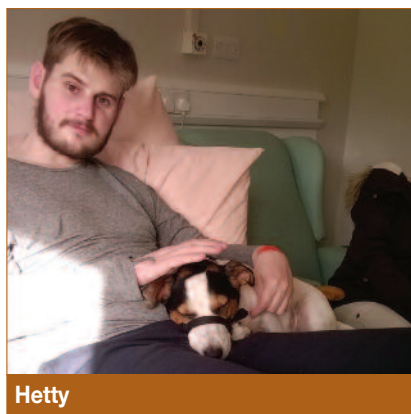
It's not often in life that a traumatic event is averted and a perfect solution found for everybody concerned. We will be forever thankful to The Cinnamon Trust for the important role that they have played, and continue to play, in my Mum's life. She is now settled in her new home and Toby's new owner goes there regularly to see her to the delight of all of the residents.



Sean Archer has peace of mind:

Moving to Manchester, was the cue for me to grow up but there was still something missing in my life.

Getting Hetty was the highlight of my summer 2012, her cheeky attitude and great personality made her the perfect dog. As Hetty was growing up, I decided that she needed a brother to keep her company and Rocco was the ideal playmate for Hetty. When I became ill it was a major worry thinking what would happen to the kids when I needed to go in to the hospice for respite and The Cinnamon Trust were recommended to me. As soon as I spoke to them I knew that when I needed to find them a home they would be safe with The Cinnamon Trust.



Hetty

Sue and the team reassured me that they would help in any way they could and initially helped sort some dog walking really quickly which I never thought would be possible. Whilst in the hospice on respite, The Cinnamon Trust managed to find the perfect short term foster family. Becky and Donna have been amazing at looking after Hetty and Rocco, from sending me pictures and videos to bringing them to visit me in the hospice. I really can't thank them enough! Unfortunately since my health has deteriorated I need to give up my beautiful dogs and The Cinnamon Trust has found them a forever foster home which gives me one less thing to worry about in my final days. Thank you to everyone who is involved with The Cinnamon Trust. If it hadn't have been for my illness I never would have known about the amazing work they do and since being helped, I now have friends who have signed up to be volunteer dog walkers should other people need the same support.



We have 16,048 volunteers and of these 12,877 have helped 5,384 owners walk 6,874 dogs. Our longest serving volunteer is **Marianne Millin** (Devon) who has been helping since 1995. Our oldest volunteer at 93 is **Heinz Wechsberg** (West Sussex) who still enjoys walking **Toby** for **Beryl Moore**. Our youngest volunteers are **Indi** (4) and **Georgie** (3) walking with their Mum, **Hayley Thomas**. The oldest person we help by walking her beloved dog **Marco** is **Lady Rosemary Abraham** who is 102.

We've fostered 1,031 pets in emergency situations this year and 1,068 pets have come into life-time care. 11,923 pets are registered to come into our care should they be bereaved.

Altogether, we've helped 134,893 people this year in a variety of ways with 36,360 pets.

We could not do this without you, so to each and every registered volunteer bless you and thank you.



Volunteers who have received a **Gold Award** for exceptional service are:

Gina O'Neill (Cheshire), **Anna Drinkwater** (Staffordshire), **Vanessa Shingles** (Kent), **Jess Mullins** (South Yorkshire), **Elizabeth Strickland** (Hampshire) and **Christine Richer** (Devon).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Jo Bond (Devon), **Michael Mills** (West Midlands), **Mike & Denise Hasshill** (Cornwall), **Chantal Furby** (Berkshire), **Annette Graham** (Hertfordshire), **Stephen & Liz Mays** (Nottinghamshire), **Diane Mathiot** (Wiltshire) and **Melinda Martin** (Kent).

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

Vivien Kemp (East Sussex), **Sandra Hill** (Worcestershire), **Tina Bird** (Devon), **Claire Holland** (Buckinghamshire), **Adrian Lyndon** (South Yorkshire) and **Helen & Lucy Davies** (Glamorgan).



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Our building works took much longer than expected mainly due to the difference in levels between the dog rooms and the bungalow and the conundrum of a downward descent that would accommodate every doggie resident to access the bungalow when they wanted to! The answer – a ramp, instead of steps, carpeted

so no-one slips. Now we have a wonderfully light, airy space fully heated for the winter that the dogs are absolutely loving! They have a new playground! It's fabulous for rolling a ball down so you don't have to depend on slow humans to throw it for you. It's good also to have a scratch on if you have an itchy side and sometimes, we confess, rub your face on after dinner! **Tess** (Spaniel) uses it for her daily work out and charges up and down with delight making whooping sounds as she does, although she was most distressed when the carrot she was eating rolled all the way down the ramp, met **Moss** (Terrier) coming through the door and disappeared....



With access to the annexe as well, the 'corridor' is a really good place to hang out – they can check what's cooking for dinner, view happenings in the garden if they are not minded to actually go there, or whizz into the bungalow to find a comfy (human) bed, especially if there's a nice clean duvet cover and you're all muddy!

It's a fabulous addition to the sanctuary, it's been a Godsend in stormy weather and we'll all be toasty warm and dry in winter!

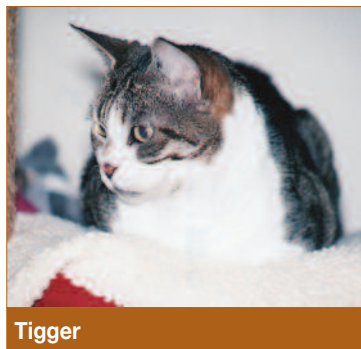


We haven't been able to escape sadness when we lost two gorgeous old cats, **Tommy** (19) and **Bunty** (18½). We also lost little **Dusty** (Bichon Frise) who was only about 10 but she had Cushing's and heart problems which she completely ignored, but kidney failure sadly and inevitably defeated her. All three so sorely missed but, as ever, leaving memories to cherish.

We've welcomed **Ellie** and **Tigger** both aged 15. They love each other, they both love cuddles and they both really love their food but whereas Ellie will eat anything and



Ellie



Tigger

everything, Tigger prefers meaty dishes to fishy ones. Ellie is petite and 'girlie' and she does everything at top speed, purring all the while! She's very playful and confident, makes her own rules on how to play the interactive games and she stalks ants as well as butterflies and beetles! Tigger on the other hand is easy going and laid back – a perfect foil for his best friend! And he drools a lot! Especially when he has a tummy tickle or when he's playing with a feather toy – we, or it, can get quite soggy, but who cares? Both have enjoyed warm, sunny days and stay long and late in the gardens. A striking couple who are so full of energy it's hard to believe their age and we've absolutely fallen for them!



Tigger

To add a little confusion, another **Tigger** has joined us but it helps that he is the most gorgeous ginger boy. He's 16 and another whose appetite knows no bounds! This Tigger likes to do things in his own time, whatever he happens to be doing. He loves to be groomed and he especially loves rubbing his head against your head! And so sweet – he likes to go out and watch the sunrise – or is he checking on the pretty little feral girl that we feed?



Libby

Libby is 19 and pretty as a picture. She's only recently arrived so we're still getting to know her but so far it is very clear she loves to be outdoors and seems mesmerized by the butterflies flying in, out and around the honeysuckle. She is remarkably playful and has a marvellous appetite. Libby also likes to climb on your lap for a cuddle and groom and will not allow another cat to 'butt in'! She has a quiet air of authority and all the other cats, amazingly, defer to her. She's going to be – or perhaps already is – one of the great characters that you cannot forget!

Autumn is well and truly here after an indifferent summer, it has to be said, but each season brings its own magic if you look for it. We are looking forward to Christmas, though – all the scents of a roast turkey dinner cooking will have our new 'corridor' crowded and a race as to who can get closest to the cooker!!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We've had a lovely summer which included, every morning, a search for Tim – one

of our little Shetland ponies. He has decided he can jump the walls dividing the fields and each and every day invites us to play 'hunt the pony'!! He's only a little boy and the walls are quite high so this is clever really – when we find him he happily joins his friends again to tell them what he found to eat that they didn't get! And now, resident with the ponies, also unusual to say the least, is a Little Egret who has clearly decided that this is the place to be! There is love in the air, too, for Mufafa (our naughty boy goose) – he's left the flock of girls to give his sole attention to Little Goose, a new girl who is equally in love with him - very sweet to see! We've had our usual picnics, trips out to the beach and river and fun and games in the paddling pool!

We've had dark days, though, and the darkest when we lost the sweetheart that was, is and always will be Lola (Chihuahua). Words cannot tell how much we miss her. I'm sure she's tending all our other beloveds as they arrive in Heaven – **Buddy** (13) Greyhound, **Mickey** (14) Goat, **Patsy** (15) Jack Russell, **Bootwo** (17) British Blue cat, **Jasper** (16) Shih Tzu, **Zolly** (17) Siamese, Sparky (16) black and white cat, **Rosie** (14) Westie cross, **Penny** (21) little cream cat, **Jacob** (17) tabby, and **Beauty** (17), **Whizz** (11) and **Humphrey** (19), three gorgeous cats. They all leave a special memory and the thought of each being marshalled by Lola is irresistible and does bring a smile.

Lots of smiles when **Angus** (19), **Lulubelle** (11) and **Robbie** (6) arrived – a more different trio you couldn't imagine!! They are a very close family with Robbie chief ear and face washer and (after dinner) cleans Angus' teeth! Lulubelle doesn't love him any the less but draws the line after a cursory 'wash'. Robbie and Angus play together a lot and stay close to each other on walks, always pointing out one to the other what they've found and all the best sniffs!

It's hard to believe Angus is 19 – he acts like a puppy. He gets so excited and anticipates where you're going and gallops to get there



Angus



Lulubelle



Robbie

first, teasing you all the while to catch up. A very happy boy with a huge zest for life. He loves walks and paddling in the river. He chose his own special toy – a reindeer – out of the toy box and he carries it around all day, so proud and every now and again he has to come and show you – you can't have it, just look! He has a great appetite too, with roast chicken tops!

Robbie also likes to carry a soft toy – any toy – all the time and he distributes them in all the beds. He makes a particular stash in his own bed! He is so cuddly and affectionate and a very good kisser! He absolutely loves his home-cooked food – blink and it's gone and you're left wondering if you gave him any? He likes to converse with the squirrels but they won't join in! He'll follow Angus to the ends of the Earth – the bond they have is incredible, so very touching.

Lulubelle is an adorable little princess, she's bossy but sweet at the same time! She barks when she wants something – pick me up, cuddle me, take me upstairs, take me downstairs. "I love you, you must love me and I like to be upside down". She loves her food too, she'll eat anything and she's very cute – she's worked out that when anyone has meds they get a tasty bit of ham, so she has to have some and you can't refuse her! She's soft at heart, soft to touch and does like to be pampered and groomed. Lulubelle doesn't do dog beds – it's the sofa, someone's arms, someone's lap or Emma's bed!!



Molly

Another trio came to bring a smile – **Charlotte** (9), **Lily** (10) and **Molly** (12). They are gorgeous and they are flourishing – loving the life here, the freedom, the food, the love. They are so full of bounce and confidence which Molly, being the boss, keeps in check (well, she thinks so, anyway!)

Molly is just a darling and her special thing is she always wipes her feet on the mat before she comes in! And she does it properly, with purpose! Molly does not think toys should squeak and dogs should not make them squeak – that calls for a telling off if only someone would take notice! She won't miss out on anything and considers herself First Lieutenant to the humans. Everything she does though is done in such a sweet way....



Charlotte

Charlotte has a special thing too, she barks for her dinner and when she does it both front feet leave the ground with every bark which is

so funny we all end up in stitches every time! A very clever girl who never fails to find where anyone has buried a bone – she digs it up and helps herself leaving us to compensate the hapless victim! Charlotte does like a tummy tickle and she taps you with her paw if you stop, so you can't. If you really have to, she'll go and jump on someone else's lap to they can carry on! She'll turn cartwheels for sausages and she's in love – she adores Spud the Pug!

Lily seems to fly when she runs, she is so fast and she really revels being so speedy! She herds the geese fantastically – they can be naughty with the dogs but Lily is uncatchable so they have to do as she says! She loves to play with toys but, knowing Molly will tell her off, she takes one out of Molly's sight, into another room and then plays, throws it around and squeaks it to her heart's content.... Lily has a special cushion that she likes to sleep on and watch TV from and then she completely relaxes, ready to race again tomorrow.

Rupert (14) is a handsome boy who likes to sing and dance as long as you sing and dance with him.... He loves people and is incredibly loyal. There is no way you could lose Rupert because he is always by your side. And he always wants seconds at breakfast, lunch and dinner, no matter what's on the menu. He's a very clean boy and never digs in the garden, but the sand on the beach? Well, let the fun begin! He's a happy, happy boy who just wants to do whatever you are doing, be where you are and join in everything. Just one thing – he **has** to sit on the left of the settee and he **has** to lie on the left of the bed!

Bilbo (18) is a gorgeous boy who is very active. He loves to explore all the gardens and find the high points from which to view the goings on with the ducks, geese and chickens. He helps us to clean and especially, best of all, helps to straighten



Lily



Rupert



Bilbo

all the blankets on the chairs, following your hands with his paws and patting the blankets down nicely! Bilbo doesn't eat from his own dish, he likes to sample the offerings in every single dish and there are twenty eight of them!! Nobody seems to mind. He's so very busy by day, but in the evening he loves a cuddle and his comfort, choosing as his favourite place the ottoman by a radiator. He's laid back, chilled out, easy going but busy!

He'll be even busier when we get all the decorations down from the loft! We all love Christmas – seeing the extra sparkle in all those little eyes as they open their presents, all the excitement, topped off with their roast turkey dinner – add a log fire and lots of cuddles – perfect!!



In the last newsletter we introduced you to **Rosie** and **Jim** (starring in our Christmas card this year). They were in short-term foster while their owners Ron and Pat Cooper were both in hospital. Sadly Ron died and Pat, who has dementia, had to move to a care home. Rosie and Jim now needed long-term care and they came to Poldarves. Rosie had kidney failure but was nevertheless happy and really enjoyed life, so much so that she lived longer than the vet thought was possible but, inevitably, we did lose her. Their short-term fosterer **Lucy Bull** (Essex) with daughters **Rosie** and **Emily**, came to visit Jim – she sent this email:

“OH MY GOODNESS!!!! It is totally wonderful, far better than I could have imagined even after your sincere promises to me that it was the perfect place for my precious Rosie and Jim. Emma, the manager, was so welcoming and gave us a full tour. I want to move in!

Many, many tears were shed by myself even before I saw Jim again, I was totally overwhelmed by the experience – the peace, serenity and calmness of the place and the total contentedness of every single animal we met.

Jim was fast asleep when we got there, apparently he had had a busy morning with a long walk and a photo shoot! He didn't seem to recognise me particularly although was pleased of the attention and welcomed the love! I was relieved, I couldn't have faced leaving him again if he'd wanted to come with me and it just proves how settled he is. We visited little Rosie's grave where she is buried with her ball and there is a space waiting for Jim right beside her.

It really is a little piece of Heaven here on Earth and I feel so honoured to have been just a teeny tiny part of it. I know I keep saying it, but The Cinnamon Trust is truly amazing and must have saved so much heartache over the years”.

Our first poem is from **Ann** in Sussex

A Conversation

They sat together on the lawn one day in early spring,
A Tabby cat, a Poodle dog with one small rubber ring.
“Please, Pussy Cat” the Poodle said, “please come and play with me”
The Tabby smiled and shook her head “I’m very old, you see”.

“Say, Pussy Cat, how old are you?” the Poodle did enquire.
“I am so old that at my age most normal cats expire”.
“Pray just how old is this great age to which no cat survives?”
The cat just nodded sleepily and said she’d had all nine lives.

“But you” she added with a smile “are only just a pup”,
“You must not think of growing old when you have scarce grown up”.
“Your youth still lies before you, your life has just begun”,
“You do not mind when humans shout, for you, you see, can run”.

“Yes I can bounce and bark and play and toss this ring about”,
“And what care I if humans scold or point at me and shout?”
“For I am young and in this world there’s nothing that I dread”.
At this the cat smiled knowingly and shook her ageing head.

“There was a time when I could run the way you do today”,
“When I could chase a cotton reel or catch a mouse at play”.
“Those days are past and now I fear I only sit and dream”
“Of all the things that used to be or things that might have been”.

“But tell me” said the Poodle as she licked a dainty paw
“You must know many stories that I’ve never heard before”.
“So many” said the Tabby “it would take five solid years”
“To tell them all, and some so sad you’d find yourself in tears”.

“For growing old is very sad, your friends all pass away”
“And you are left to wait your turn which may come any day”.
And at this thought she gave a sigh and then a weary yawn.
The dog then left her with her dreams, alone upon the lawn.



And as it's the last time, after so many years, that our Lola will grace the back page, we dedicate this from **Janet Boodle** in Devon to her:

In Loving Memory

You travel on your way,
I am part of you and you a part of me;
You taught me that's just how it is
And ever thus must be.

For in your doggy soul you knew
Love's wordless mystery,
And felt compelled with all your heart
To share this gift with me.



And Finally

I'm sure you'll be amazed (or not!) to learn that we have members in 16 countries around the world, namely: Australia, Canada, Cayman Islands, Germany, France, Hungary, Israel, Kenya, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and the USA!

This year is rapidly drawing to a close and with that comes Christmas with its timeless message of peace, love and hope, followed by the birth of a New Year. So, wherever you are in the world, as each comes to you in turn, may I ask you, please, to raise a glass and remember, with never ending love and gratitude, absent friends.

Happy Christmas everyone and may 2018 bring all you wish for you and yours.

God Bless, everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

