

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

Just back from Crufts where we had a great time meeting old friends and making new ones. Our stand seemed busier than ever! And, of course, we



had our presentation of the Cinnamon Trust Young Volunteer of the Year Award which, this year, went to **Dayna Landsborough** from Devon who stood out not only for her devotion to Jet and his owner Meg, but also for her amazing perception and understanding of why we are all here.

Dayna has written a lovely piece to show how she feels: “The Cinnamon Trust is a charity organisation which is unlike any other, the opportunities that arise don’t just focus on general community work but on developing incredible relationships with another person (and furry friends!). I’ve

never worked with an organisation that has been so focused on not only who and how I am, but also making sure an individual is able to keep their pet at home, where they belong.

I have been walking a regal black Labrador for around 4 years; I would never want to imagine a life without him and his owner, Meg. Jet is a character like no other; bouncing off the kitchen floor when he realises it’s me he’s spotted through the window. Now, I cannot begin to talk about Jet without mentioning his jackets – his bright yellow visibility jacket for when we go for a stroll in the rain and, my personal favourite, a fluffy lined brown fleece for when it’s cold. He is most definitely the handsomest pup when he strides across the field. Being the incredibly social boy that he is, everyone in the local area knows him and he cannot pass on an opportunity to let someone rub his ears. Each time we go for a walk he watches to check which pocket his treats go in and he regularly stops mid-walk and just sits, looking from me to the pocket over and over. He won’t carry on unless you give him his favourite – which changes

weekly so you may be sat there for a while. He is undoubtedly one of a kind and if you meet him you certainly will never forget him!



I never imagined that, when I started walking a dog in the community, I would not only gain a furry companion but a genuine friend in their owner. Meg is a woman who has done it all and that is no exaggeration. A Woman of The Royal Naval Service (WRENS), a mother, a workforce, the epitome of strength, she is a force to be reckoned with. You will never leave the house without a

drink, be that a Capri Sun or a cappuccino, the choice is up to you. Always available to tell a story that the average person could only dream about; I am escorted around foreign lands, there are fond memories of her late sister, and reading her short stories (better than most published writers). She is the belle of any ball, with her perky sense of humour and ability to smile through any hardship thrown her way. I am infinitely thankful to The Cinnamon Trust for giving me the opportunity to meet a woman like Meg; I know there is no one placed on this earth quite like her.

I don't feel I can speak of wonderful people and not include a second brilliant human being; Meg's late husband Charlie, a true cheeky gentleman with his own tales of singing with his many friends all over the globe. I was lucky enough to know him, even for a short time, and together he and Meg could rule the world (or at least Plymstock).

Volunteering with The Cinnamon Trust is more than just dog walking, it's more than just something to boost a CV. It's about meeting people across generations that you would never have the opportunity to meet otherwise. I have learnt so much about times gone by and have become far more understanding and appreciative of my community and all who live in it. I will never be able to describe how happy I am to have stumbled upon The Cinnamon Trust many years ago, all I can do is recommend it to anyone who is looking for that little bit more out of a volunteering opportunity. You never know what astounding people you might meet".



And **Meg** has written a short poem – worth a read!

Jet

My dog is quite a character,
As all dogs seem to be,

He checks my perfume daily,
To see if I smell of me.

Sometimes he does not approve,
And runs far up the garden,

He has a sneeze and all because,
I wore Elizabeth Arden.

His favourite smell is Estée,
And he cuddles on my knee,

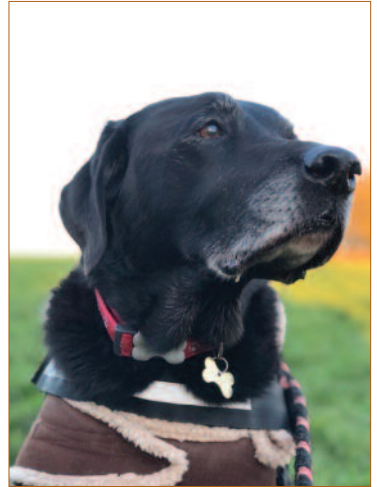
The expense is pretty awful,
For my dog's fan-tasy.

How can you price a pot of love,
A nose beneath your arm,

We're both well past our sell-by date,
So not much time to charm.

Jet: 2005 - still going....

Meg Grey: 1930 – still going



CT '100 Club

The big winner who received £100 in December was **Margaret Armstrong** (Essex). Other winners who have each received £25 are: Oct: **John** and **Maggie Newsham** (Devon), Nov: **Colleen Langford** (Essex), Jan: **Pat Field** (Northamptonshire), Feb: **June Turner** (Warwickshire) and Mar: **Penny Morton** (East Lothian).



Fundraising Events

Kathy Banfield (Buckinghamshire) raised £53 from her raffle. **Cathy** and **Alan Care** (East Sussex) raised £362.18 in various ways, mostly from selling the most incredible plants, some grown and nurtured for years.



Wellpets cakes



John and Rosie at Maggie Martin's event

Sally Campbell and **Funding Animal Futures** (North Somerset) raised £50. **Nigel Belchamber** and members of **The Freemasons of Via Lucis Lodge No 9443** (Gloucestershire) raised £250. **John** and **Pam Davenport** (Staffordshire) raised £60 from their car boot sale. **Gill Mason** (Suffolk) raised £60 at **Whitworth Vets Open Day** and Dog Show, with help from **Cate Grant** and her son, **Benjamin** (aged 6), they held a stall with tombola. **Joan Thomas** (Greater Manchester) celebrated her 80th birthday and sent £105 in lieu of birthday presents. Volunteers **Mandy**, **Jeremy** and **Emma Hurd** held a stall at **Sandra Adams'** agility event at Catton Hall (Derbyshire) and raised a staggering £800!



Patricia Burnett and The Autumn Group members

everyone from **Hwilwill Community Market** (Devon) raised £100. **Lucy Hudson** and everyone at **Wellpets** (Somerset) enjoyed a coffee and cake morning to raise £100. **Christine Lawn** (West Yorkshire) and the **Lupset Park Group** raised a stunning £865 from all their monthly activities. **Michael Skuse** (Denbighshire) and everyone at **Ruthin U3A** raised £24 from their Geology Talk raffle. **Christine Sumsion** (North Somerset) and **Danni**, her lovely Cinnamon Trust dog, raised £52.50 from pet-sitting and a tombola. **Ginny Champion** (Norfolk) sent £100 in lieu of a 100th birthday gift for her friend, **Mary Fletcher**. **Philemena Hooper** (Cornwall) sold books at the Punchbowl and Ladle and The Old Quay at Devoran to raise £329.05. **Katrina Leyland** and everyone at **Tyldesley Veterinary Centre** (Manchester) raised £130 from their Easter raffle.

Maggie Martin (West Sussex) raised a stonking £1,230 from many events including Mike's Cream Tea (yum!), tombola and Findon Village dog show. **Janet Morgan**, with help from **Cathy McLeod**, **Pam Jameson**, **Wendy Ralphs**, **Michael Dawson**, **Chris Hyde**, **Kevin Leneghan**, **Zena Schtyk**, **Pamela Chadaway**, **John Parry** and **Jo Sadler** (Worcestershire) has also been busy raising a brilliant £537.36 from lots of different events. **Patricia Burnett** (Berkshire) and members of **The Autumn Group** held a lovely

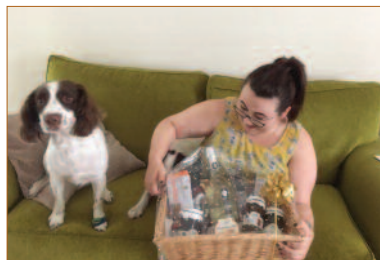
Garden Party to raise £100. **Jackie Langley** (East Sussex) invited friends to her garden for tea, cake, strawberries and cream – heaven! She raised £130. Volunteer, **Rachel Farquhar**, also a member of the **Charsfield Amateur Dramatic Society** (Suffolk) nominated us to benefit from their annual village show, they sent us £100. **Vivien Hunter** and the members of **Feckenham WI** (Worcestershire) held a cake sale and raised £30. **Judith Jones** (Herefordshire) and everyone at **Arrowfield Veterinary Practice Ltd** organised an ‘All Creatures Great and Small’ photo competition, with the winners featured in their calendar and all proceeds to us – a fantastic £500. **David** and **Tessa Kinchett** (Suffolk) raised £200 from buying and selling at car boot sales as well as eBay. **Audrey Breckon** (Cleveland) crocheted and sold her lovely baby clothes and raised £40. **Jean Foster** (Devon) and her sister organised a quiz for the **Sampford Peverell Garden Club** and raised £25. **Stephanie Guy** (Lancashire) sold her lovely miniature pet portraits and raised £24. **Louise Ince** (Kent) judged a fun dog show for Colliewobbles and raised £100. **Mark Taylor** (Lancashire) and the congregation of **The Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church** raised £100 at their Sunday morning coffee group. **Stephanie Driscoll** (Merseyside) and everyone at **Village Veterinary Surgery** organised a photo competition, the winners featured in their calendar, with £250 proceeds to us. **Ingrid Linney** (Staffordshire) attended the popular ‘Middleport Mutts’ event and her husband sold our jute bags at his school (Painsley Catholic College), they raised £90. **Cheryl Bevan** (Somerset) and her husband celebrated their wedding day with beer and cider for all the guests and raised £214 for us, very many congratulations! **Robert Wilkinson’s** employer **Legal and General** (West Sussex) allow local retailers into the office once a month. In return, 10% of all proceeds go to charity – Robert nominated us and we received a wonderful £335.90. **Sue Hurst** (Berkshire) raised £20 from her stall at Newbury Carnival. **Christine Derham** (Suffolk) has sold more of her gorgeous peacock feathers and raised £87. **Caroline Hendra** (Lancashire) raised £220 from a stall at the Green Fayre at Beacon Country Park – with prizes from a Luxury Food Hamper to a Duo of Wine. **Roz Godfrey** (Hampshire) asked her friends to ‘save their change’ – each picked a coin then saved all the coins of their particular



Ingrid Linney's table at Middleport Mutts



Cheryl Bevan's wedding



Jennie Jackson won Caroline's hamper

denomination raising a total of £118.50. **Rosemary Osborne** (Wiltshire) and the congregation of **The Church of St James the Great** chose us as their Charity of the Month and raised £119.50 from their collection. **Mrs Rowe** and everyone at **Twickenham Riverside Trust** held a dog show at Diamond Jubilee Gardens and sent the entry fees of £291.40 to us. **Mr Tim Weeks** has again chosen The Trust to receive royalties from his books 'Doglopedia' and 'Book Of The Bitch'. We received £82.70. **Jenna Fentham** and all at **Asda** (Hayle) included us in their Green Token Campaign and raised £200. **Judith Dranfield** (Cornwall) with help from **Laura** and **Annie** raised £138.65 from the sale of her wonderful plants at the garden wall. **Broomhill Veterinary Practice** (South Yorkshire) raised a brilliant £441.86 from their open day and raffle. **Leonard Brothers Veterinary Centre** (Cheshire) raised £300.20 from their dog show. **Angela Harris** (Sussex) with help from **Jackie Gordon** and **Diane Croxford** raised £175 from their stall at Bishopstone Fete. **Christine Harrison** (West Midlands) and her cousin organised table top sales and raised £150. **Ann Tingley** (West Sussex) and members of



Maggie Forbes-Buckingham and Alison Rossiter

Barns Green Ladies Stoolball Club held a village Stoolball fun day and raised £70 for us - Stoolball is an old Sussex game for women (mostly) with similar rules to cricket! **Maggie Forbes-Buckingham** and **Alison Rossiter** (Dorset) raised £50.00 from their street collection. **Jamie Whittle** (Suffolk) and everyone at **Whitworth Veterinary Practice Ltd** held a pirate-themed Open Day (including dog show) and raised £110. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £56 from her handmade cards and bric-a-brac. **Lynda Mersh** (East Sussex) and her husband

raised £45 from their 'internal betting' – they have now extended this from the outcome of University Challenge to include the colour of The Queen's hats at Ascot – ingenious! **Mary Sedgbeer** (Devon) raised £50 in lieu of birthday presents. **Michele Brusey** (Devon) helped the **Yelverton Rotary Club** organise a Family Dog Show to raise £157. **Alison Wheeler** (Essex) raised £132.30 from the SESAW (Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare) Open Day and the Vegan Fair at Firstsite in Colchester. **Lottie Hardy** (Suffolk) and all at **Homefield Road Veterinary Surgery** held a fun dog show and raised £150. **Laura Parsons** (Cornwall) and the staff of **Torfx** held a dress-down day and raised a fantastic £275.25. **Richard Lane** and all at **Twyford C of E High School** chose us as



Gail Herbert and friends at the Fun Dog Show

their charity and the students in Truro House raised £90.14. **Gail Herbert, Mark** and **Georgina Curgenvin** (Somerset) held their annual fun dog show at Dunster Beach Holidays. The various classes included "Best Sausage Catcher" – fantastic! They

raised an equally fantastic £270. **Ruth Culley** and everyone at **Yew Tree Vets** (Surrey) raised £29 from their Open Afternoon. **Ann Canfer** (West Sussex) raised £54 from her stall at Alphapet Animal Fun Day. **Rita Curtis** and her partner (Cornwall) raised £284.10 from a local show and in lieu of gifts - they both celebrated their 80th birthday this year. **Harleigh Vets** (Cornwall) and **Bodmin Dog Training** held a Fun Dog Show with 12 different classes including 'Dog The Judge Wants to Take Home' to raise a marvellous £443. **Tracy Crook** (Buckinghamshire) gave three lectures and demonstrations on physiotherapy and raised £160. **Gill Duroe** (Northamptonshire) raised £758 from Dogwhys Agility Club's Fun Dog Show and a stall at Letchworth Agility Show. With help from **Lindsey Reeves** and **Emma Leach** they held a tombola, sold dog toys and coats as well as **Marlene Freeman's** lovely knitted handwarmers. **Yvonne Riddle** (Bedfordshire) raised £340 at her wonderful coffee morning. **Louise Ozwell** (West Midlands) sold second-hand books at her local vets' practice and raised £31.20. **Janie Wood** (Suffolk) opened her garden to a local gardening club and raised £50. **Christine Lancaster** and everyone at **Waitrose** (Uttoxeter) raised £280. **Andy Peterson** and staff at **Bay Bistro, St Ives Bay Holiday Park**, raised £55.05 from their small change float over the summer season. **Christine Everall** (Worcestershire) raised an amazing £4,244.62 from the ever-popular Animals R Magic event held at The Jinney Ring Craft Centre. **Emily Shirley's** lovely clients from her home boarding business (Nottinghamshire) all took part in a charity walk and raised £235. **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) baked more of her incredibly popular dog biscuits for a scarecrow weekend and raised £250.43. **Dartmoor Hunt Supporters Club** raised £200 from their dog show. **Milly** and **Daniel Allin** (Gloucestershire) celebrated their wedding and raised £150 in appreciation of all the help their grandfather received. **Jean Morse** (Somerset) celebrated her 80th birthday, she held a lovely party and raised £110. **Sue Tanner** (Somerset) also celebrated her 80th birthday and sent £20 from her party. **Janet Mundy** and the residents of **Crowborough Community Plus** all enjoyed a Chi Gong session with **Anita Wilmowski** to raise £35. **Dolly Makin** (Cornwall) raised a brilliant £2,600 from her calendar featuring well known four-legged friends of local businesses in Falmouth, including her very own Labrador, **Hebe**. This is lovely – **John** and **Sarah Webster's** daughter, **Lily**, sold hair ribbons at her school in the holidays. She measured, cut and bagged the ribbon and displayed it at school with our literature and raised £20, well done, Lily! **Helen Baker** (Cornwall) with help from her doggies, **Dylan** and **Keeko**, held a coffee morning and raised £215. **Carolyn**



Yvonne Riddle and friends including walkers Sheila Hargreaves, Wilma Lee and Teddy



Diane Davis garden party

Morris (Cornwall) sold books on her doorstep and raised £120. **Diane Davis** (Surrey) and her family held their ever-popular garden party with a BBQ and tombola and raised a superb £1,209.45! How about this! – from Gibraltar, **Wendy Alsop** and the staff at **STM Fidecs Central Services Ltd** chose us as their charity of the month for August and raised £193.30. **Tracy Home** (Nottinghamshire) with **Rebecca Hendy** and **Yvette Tomlinson** raised £44.82 at the Age UK Nottingham event. **Susan Love** (Norfolk) and the congregation of **All Saints' Church, Walcott** raised

£90.30 at their Pets' Service. **Sarah Howarth** (Somerset) and the staff at **Novia Financial** chose us as their charity for their third quarter and raised £613.35. **Andrew Bernstein** (East Sussex) and all the attendees of **Camper Marmalade** (a VW festival) enjoyed a dog show as part of their weekend and raised £100. **Kaylee Lamb** (Dorset) and everyone at **Lynwood Veterinary Group** had a stall at their local show and raised £57 from their tombola. **Amanda Large** (Berkshire) completed the **Thames Bridges Trek** and raised £203 – well done! **Jennie Barnes' Dogtastic Obedience group** (Cornwall) performed for **Lynn Begley** and everyone at **Carnon Downs Memory Café** and raised £25. Volunteer **Jean Hollingsworth** (East Yorkshire) is a member of the **Autosleeper Owners' Club** and raised £100 at Fort Paull rally. The pupils of **Woodchurch High School** (Merseyside) held various fundraising activities during the year ranging from cake sales to packing bags at the supermarket and car washing! They raised a fabulous £100. **Ruth Hollingsworth** (Hertfordshire) raised a fantastic £500 from her sale. **Barbara Taylor** (Isle of Wight) and members of **Taybar Cavalier King Charles Spaniels** raised £130 at their Talking Dogs Rally Trial. **Betty Darkin** (West Sussex) celebrated her 100th birthday and raised £250 – many congratulations! **Lisa Bolger** (West Sussex) sold apples picked from her trees at home and raised £35. **Julie Aris** (East Sussex) held one of her brilliant quiz nights again at Westham Village Hall and raised £200. **Martin** and **Jenny Reed** (Essex) have done it again! They helped organise the Maldon Mud Race, where people wade through thick mud for fun (!) and raised an amazing £500. **Sue Robb** (Essex) works for **SEIB Insurance Brokers**, which is part of Ecclesiastical Insurance, Sue nominated us as her charity and SEIB sent us £125. **Natasha Jones** (Somerset) took part in a challenge and walked 50km in one day across the Peak District to raise £305 – well done, Natasha! **Alex Hinchliffe** (Greater Manchester) ran in the Salford 10k Road Race and raised £75.01 – well done, again! **Hazel Wilby** (Kent) raised £39.10 from her stall at Rustall United Reform Church. **Carmen Johnson** and **John McCall** (London) held a fundraising dog show, their employer **Lloyds Bank Foundation** matched their efforts through their 'Staff Matched Giving Scheme' and we received a terrific £600. **Amber Padgham** and everyone at **The East Grinstead Veterinary Hospital** held a stall again this year at their local May Fair and raised a brilliant £570.54. **Toni Cox**

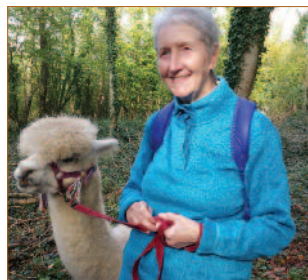
(Cornwall) and the congregation of **Egloskerry Parish Church** held a Pets' Service and raised £72.35. **Betsy Green** (Wiltshire) and her friend raised £40 from their stall at a local village fete. **Shirley Cressey** (Somerset) celebrated her 80th birthday and raised £105 in lieu of presents. Another fabulous year for **Peter** and **Alison Hanson** of **The Cat Gallery** (North Yorkshire). From January to September 2017 they raised a superb £2,268.71 from their mail order customers and they will continue to support us through their Christmas catalogue. **John Parry** (Worcestershire) sold Christmas cards and gift wrap to his village friends and raised £180. **Jaqueline Jobs** (Gloucestershire) completed the Cyclone Challenge, a gruelling 90 mile cycle ride with 6000ft of climbing! She was delighted to reach the halfway mark as it meant all the major hills were behind her and it was a straight road home. She raised a wonderful £205. **Zoe Roberts** (Clwyd) staff and pets at all three surgeries of **Daleside Veterinary Group** participated in a 13 mile sponsored walk and raised a magnificent £532.25 – what a great effort! **Sally Baggaley** (Shropshire) raised £183 from the sale of surplus garden produce and house plants. **Judith Slack** (Devon) and members of **Chocaccino Knitting Group** knitted and sold various small items at the chocolate/coffee shop on the Barbican, Plymouth and raised £90. **Alicon Webb** (Somerset), this year's President of the **Inner Wheel Club of Mendip**, chose us as her Charity of the Year and raised £300. **Karen Harris** (Cornwall) and the congregation of **Kenwyn with St Allen PCC** raised £32.63 from their Pets' Service. **Fiona Walsh** (West Sussex) chose us as her charity of the year whilst Lady Captain of the **Chichester Golf Club**. They raised an incredible £3,368.15 from Christmas lunch with a raffle, charity bridge and a second raffle. **Rosemary Young** (Dorset) organised the Best Rescue Championships dog show at Buckham Fair, **Monique Newman**, a winner, sent us her prize of £50. **Frances Parsons** (Midlothian) ran every day in September, she clocked up over 108 miles and raised £180 – wow! **Barbara Storey** (Cornwall) and members of **Canine Health Concern Cornwall Local**



Jaqueline Jobs



Fiona Walsh



Fiona Walsh with her alpaca



Best Rescue Championship dog show

Group held a Book Sale and Christmas Fair and raised £260. **Christine Graville** (West Sussex) gave hand massages for a day to a church group and raised £50. **Stephen Nicholson** (Cornwall) and everyone at the **Trevelyan Arms** at Goldsithney have participated in many Sunday quiz nights and raised £200. **Tess West** (Lincolnshire) and members of **Tuesday's Bridge Group** raised £100. **Nicola Fearn**, staff and customers of 'Little Waitrose' in Cambridge included us in their 'Community Matters' campaign and raised £181.40. **Julie** and staff at **The Rowe Veterinary Group** in Bristol organised a Pub Quiz, had a great evening and raised £108. **Amanda Brown** (Middlesex) and the congregation of **The United Reformed Church of Eastcote and Northwood Hills** enjoyed a lovely coffee morning and raised £122. **Maurice Ireland** (Cheshire) and members of **Prestbury Amenity Society** held a family dog show - Judge, **Nick Rushton** from the **Bollington Veterinary Practice**, nominated us to receive £50. **Dianne Fincham** (Cornwall) and members of the **Far West Sun Club** raised £50. **Amanda Bott** (West Midlands) chose us as her charity of the year during her time as Captain of the **Penn Golf Ladies' Section** and raised a fantastic £1,240 from a bridge drive with 16 tables, a charity lunch and a raffle on Ladies' Golf Open Day. **Jan McLean** (Hampshire) attended an Age UK event in Portsmouth and raised £45. **Miles Semple** (County Durham) completed a sponsored walk of the Langdales in the Lake District of 8.78 miles (including a hair-raising route up 'Jack's Rake' - an ascent of 3440ft) in under 5 hours to raise £230.57 – even more brilliant as he hates heights! **Lorna Key** (Essex) and the congregation of **All Saints' Church Little Totham** held a Pets' Service, among those present were 16 dogs and their owners, they raised £100. **Sandra Davies'** grand-daughter, **Kenidee** (Isle of Wight), raised £15 at her tabletop sale. **Kathryn Bearshall** and **Julie Barnes** from **Severn Veterinary Centre** (Worcestershire) organised a Dog Walk and Open Day. They were helped by colleagues **Rachael** and **Lauren** and friends from the **Explore the Paw** dog walking group. The sun shone, people came, cakes were baked by staff and enjoyed by all the walkers along with tea and coffee - and the dogs proudly wore their "well done" rosettes! They raised a wonderful £336. **Doe Burgoyne** (Cornwall) and members of the **Inner Wheel Club of Bude** raised £40. **Sylvia Halley** (Buckinghamshire) together with **Michele Chambers, Wynn Jones, Anne Manning, Ann Mattingley, Linda Mehio, Jan Payne** and **Doreen Penn**, all members of a little craft group, baked and crafted, they then held a coffee morning and raised £200. The nurses of **South Devon Veterinary Hospital** took part in a raft race, had fun and raised a very happy £198.13! **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) and **Val Makda** attended the Autumn Fair at The Diamond Riding Centre, plus a Boot Fair at Epsom Hospital and raised £110. **Michelle Burrow** (Rhondda), **Snoop Dawg and Friends** raised £350 with their October fundraising. **Paul Shaw** (West Midlands) and members of **St Cyprian's Church Bingo Club** raised £20. As Captain of **The Teign Valley Golf Club**, **Ann Somerscales** (Devon), chose us as her charity of the year and raised a terrific £2,689.10 from Ladies Day where 70 plus ladies attended a silent auction. **Emily Bartlett** (Kent) held a Christmas bazaar and

raised £100. **Peter** and **Vicky Daley** (Cumbria) look after **Holly, Loki, Poppy, Mitch, Theo, Charlie** and **Midge** when their friends go on holiday and raised a fabulous £360. **James Emsley** (North Somerset) took part in the Easy Runner Sodbury Slog. Not for the fainthearted, this is a lung-busting, trainer-ruining, hill-climbing multi-terrain challenge. Over 1,300 runners took part and James raised £192.50 – heroic! **Rachel, Lucy, Kayleigh** and **Jo** at **Ego** (Derbyshire) raised £36.50 from their charity walk. **Sharon Marks** and all the **Community Service Fundraising Team** (Year 12 pupils) at **Brighton College** raised £251.30 from several delicious cake sales throughout the year. **Sue** and everyone at **Towerwood Vets** (West Yorkshire) raised a brilliant £1,057.12 from their dog show. **Margaret Willacy** (Staffordshire) and a group of friends abstained from sending each other Christmas gifts and raised £80. **Gillian Hickling** (Norfolk) made and sold lots of gorgeous bread and pizza and raised £80. **Graeme McConnell** and **Mark Hanson** (Wiltshire) completed The Great South Run and raised £459.42 – very well done! **Michael O'Connor** and **Karen Bailey** at **Mika Recruitment** (Dorset) have again been very busy. They raised £261.23 from their placements. **Elena Barnard** and everyone at **Animal Friends Pet Insurance** (Herefordshire) included us in their Facebook campaign, we won first prize and they sent us a stupendous £12,000. **Malmesbury** and **District Dog Training Club** raised £100. **Wyche Dog Training Club** (Staffordshire) held a fun dog show and raised a terrific £500. **The English Shetland Sheepdog Club's** retiring Chairman, **Mr Peter Allen** (Somerset), abstained from receiving a retirement gift and we received £25. **The British Manchester Terrier Club** (Cheshire) held a Fun Weekend and an auction of items donated by the family of the Club's former President, **Miss Nerolie de Lavis Trafford** – they raised £100. Members of **Felixstowe Dog Training Club** chose us as their charity at their AGM and sent us £250. **Lowestoft Dog Training Society** raised £142 at their Companion Dog Show raffle. Members of **Daventry Dog Training Club** held a dog show at the local 'Teddy Mayor's Picnic' and raised £100. **Bedfordshire Allbreeds Training Society** raised £150. Members of **Red Dog Training Club** (Hertfordshire) raised £90 from their Dog Show – their course was even tackled by a ferret! **Vale of Clwyd Canine Society** chose us as their charity of the year, they raised £100 from their exemption show. **UK Paper Leisure Club Canine Society**



Red Dog Training Club



UK Paper Leisure Club CS

(Kent) raised £300 from their dog show. **Brook Dog Training Club** (East Sussex) raised £150 from their summer party raffle. **Southern Parson Russell Terrier Club** (Somerset) raised £250 at their Fun Day and Companion Show. **Cheltenham and District Dog Training Club** held an open dog show and raised £200 from their fun class and training ring. Members of the **Schnauzer Club of Great Britain** (Thames Valley Section) raised £50. **The Basset Fauve de Bretagne Club** (Shropshire) held a raffle and raised £100. **South Bucks Dog Agility Club** held a Beginners Show and raised £150. **The Whippet Club** (Derbyshire) raised £150. **Leamington Dog Training Club** nominated us as their charity of the year and raised a fantastic £1,100 from agility demonstrations, Companion Dog shows and raffles. **DJ Dog Training Club** (Wiltshire) run classes under The Kennel Club Good Citizen scheme and raised £200. **Plymouth Dog Training Club** raised £300 at their Christmas party, they had fancy dress, party games for the dogs and mince pies with cream for the handlers – scrummy! Everyone at **Hastings & St Leonards Dog Training Club** raised £674.25 from their fun night and sponsored down stay – brilliant - hope the dogs had a sausage! And finally, **The Canine Supporters Charity** sent us a brilliant £2,000.



Volunteer Views

Our first view is from **Sarah Bentley** in Leeds:

I learnt about The Cinnamon Trust from a poster in my local supermarket. I love animals, especially dogs, but due to my living and working situation, I can't have my own. I thought signing up was a great idea for me to spend some time with animals whilst helping them and their owners. So, sign up I did! And it was no time at all before I was contacted by The Trust about Toby and his owner Michael who, due to illness, is unable to walk Toby as often as he'd like. I was informed that Toby was a Spaniel cross, which made me even more eager to meet him as



Toby

Spaniels are one of my favourite breeds. He didn't disappoint. Such a handsome fellow who, despite his advancing years (he's 13), is a lively chap, full of energy and always ready for a walk or cuddle! I walk Toby twice a week, he and Michael live just a short drive from my home in North Leeds. I take him to some local fields where he can have a good sniff around and a paddle in the stream, he loves the water! Michael, Toby's owner, is wonderfully friendly and welcoming. I enjoy our chats before and after Toby's walks.

I'm so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for introducing me to such a lovely dog and owner. My brother passed away in 2016 which has been incredibly difficult. Being able to walk Toby, with his enthusiasm and affectionate nature, has brought me joy and comfort, as has Michael's friendship and knowing I am helping both dog and owner. I love walking and having Toby with me just makes it all the more enjoyable. Thank you, Cinnamon Trust!



Jane Myers in Cheshire writes:

I decided to contact The Cinnamon Trust a few months ago after seeing an advert when visiting my mum in Birmingham. I got the information from The Trust and decided that volunteering to walk a dog was something that I would like to do. Once I had all my references and checks I received an email telling me that I should arrange to meet the family of Bill and his companion, Barney.



We were told that Barney was a six year old whippet so had an idea of what he would look like. However, nothing prepared me for the whirlwind that was Barney! He certainly has got a whippet's body but the tail and head are those of a West Highland Terrier! Since walking him we have had so many people ask what type he is, and one man even wanted to take a photo of him as he had never seen such a cross. Whatever he is, he is totally adorable.

I walk Barney with my partner, between four and five times per week and he is an absolute joy as well as giving us good exercise. He loves to run on ahead of us but always checks we are there. If we walk in front of him, he loves to shoot past us in full whippet mode, ears flat, head down. Sometimes he runs so fast he trips himself over. He is very nosy – he will run across the field to go and see people and is always gentle with them. He also gets on well with other dogs we meet – he has a quick sniff and then moves onto something else. He does get a bit jealous if we make a fuss of another dog, though and starts to bark at us.

We take him little treats every time we walk him as he is so good. Without teaching him, he will sit and tap my knee with his paw – we think he must remember something from his past as apparently he once lived in Spain. He's quite funny with his biscuits as he always pretends he's not interested and then once he starts eating them, it's like feeding a dustbin! At the weekend we take him out a bit further afield in the car and he loves to sit in the back with his head stuck out the window – everyone laughs when they see him. We have planned lots of lovely walks for him – the seaside, the woods, anywhere he can run around and have fun. He loves to come back to our house and run round the garden like a

mad thing and actually jumps up on the settee to sit with us, even if he's covered in mud and other vile things he's rolled in! The photo shows him on the return from his latest trip – we think we actually wore him out as he curled up and went to sleep in the back of the car.

Obviously collecting Barney has brought us into contact with his owner, Bill. He is a lovely man but has severe dementia; he doesn't know who I am each time I visit, but he sees Barney jumping around to go out so knows he's ready for his walk. I actually work two days per week at a mental health trust in a department where we conduct research for dementia and Alzheimer's so I am able to appreciate the difficulties that Bill faces. I always have a chat with him as I know he likes country music and always tell him what Barney has been up to. He has lots of family who visit him as well and they all love Barney.

We lost our darling cat, Sandy, in August and both of us were very sad. Barney cheered us up a lot as it stopped us moping about the house and we had a reason to go out. We both feel fitter from the fresh air and exercise and know that Barney will come out whatever the weather. We are thinking about getting another cat or kitten but will never stop walking our lovely friend Barney. The Cinnamon Trust is a great charity and I have told friends and colleagues about it so maybe you will get some more volunteers.



And from Devon **Bobbie-Marie Lovell**, who is one of our young volunteers, says:

I have been walking for The Cinnamon Trust for a number of years now and have really enjoyed being able to help someone in this way. I started with The Cinnamon Trust because I really wanted to do more for people and also to help myself gain confidence and have the freedom to go outside, which I feel I have achieved with the help of The Cinnamon Trust. I have met some lovely people and delightful dogs, who have all been very special in their little ways. It has been fantastic to be able to assist someone who is no longer capable with walking their pet so they can still have their faithful companions alongside them and the dog sees a friendly face and has a good walk.

I also feel that this job is very special as we give the owners of the dogs someone new to talk to; it can be very difficult for some people to be able to get out and meet new people, but in this role we come to them and I feel it just gives them a little boost.

The Cinnamon Trust has been really great to me, always very supportive and always contactable if I ever need them. They are a great organisation and team!

For just over a year now I have been walking Eileen's dog - his name is Buttons and he is a handsome Labrador. He is an exceptional boy in every way; he is very loyal to his owner but loves a fuss from anyone who is willing to give it to him. He is an ex-PAT dog which means he is so very gentle with everything and so in tune with all that is going on around him. He never fails to make me smile - from when I first see him, to the walk and even when I have to say, "see you soon". Buttons never likes to miss any of the conversation, he hates to feel that he is missing out on something. And he loves the gossip, even when he is laid on his bed and trying not to fall asleep. Upon welcoming you, Buttons will bring you a toy from his bed, normally Hippo or Hedgy, place it down near you and come for a fuss and a cuddle - but not without turning to his owner to make sure she is not jealous of this. He will eventually return to his owner just to let her know he stills loves her!



Buttons

Eileen is a remarkable woman. She has a vast amount of knowledge and an incredible sense of humour; it is always a pleasure talking to this lady. I feel she has taught me a great deal in this past year. I find her so interesting, from her knowledge of gardening to her love of wildlife. When I am sat with her and we are talking about plants she will come out with the plant name, for instance, 'agapanthus' which confuses me no end as I am not good with my plants and therefore will have to go home and look it up. Also, from where we are sat, you can view her bird feeders which, in these colder months, are swarmed in birds from goldfinches to blue tits to woodpeckers. Again, Eileen can name them all and can also recognise them from their song - it's phenomenal! She is a lovely lady and she and Buttons are a great pair. I really enjoy being able to help them.



Susan Walton in Gateshead writes:

I walk Spencer every Friday afternoon for between 30 and 55 minutes depending on strength of wind and heaviness of rain! He and Lynda live in a suburb of Gateshead which is very aptly named "Windy Nook" but which has lots of open spaces with wonderful views out to sea and towards the Cheviot Hills on clear days.

Spencer is quite a powerful dog, being a Lab/Staffie cross, and when he puts his feet down there's no pulling him! He's a fairly equable animal and doesn't take exception to



Spencer

other dogs unless they take exception to him. I never let him off the lead, but he has an extending one which lets him roam and sniff and roll, too, if I don't catch him before he starts! Interestingly, there are urban foxes around Windy Nook, which I find astonishing given how built-up the surroundings are. However, they make their presence felt to dogs by leaving scent markers which Spencer finds irresistible – and which Lynda then has to scrub out of his coat!

When we get back home and he's greeted Lynda, been dried, de-muddied and had a drink to replenish the stocks he's just spent ages spreading over every tuft of grass and lamp-post, he knows that he'll get a dog-chew from me. Until I hand it over, he stands in front of me, tongue hanging out, tail wagging and dancing to and fro with anticipation! As soon as he's eaten both halves, he picks up his favourite toy and settles down for a rest and a 'worry' at the toy quite happily!

Lynda is happy too, as he's had his daily walk and will be happy to stay indoors and keep her company until the next walking day. Lynda is keeping as well as can be expected, given her illness, and is always grateful to the walkers for the time and effort they give to keep Spencer walked and happy. On the few occasions when she has a hospital appointment or is taken in to the hospice, she always gives me as much notice as she can so I don't turn up to find an empty house and Spencer being looked after/spoilt rotten by her sister or niece.

We get on well and I often stay and have a few minutes chat with her. It has to be AFTER I've walked Spencer; he gets very cross with me, and her, if we waste valuable walking time on idle chit-chat before he's been out! If you've never seen a Lab/Staffie bounce off all four paws, or heard one 'yip', you've never met Spencer when he's all harnessed up and raring for a walk!



From Merseyside, **Philippa Smith** has sent this lovely view:

My name is Philippa and I live in West Kirby on the Wirral. I own a 3 year old English Pointer bitch called Dizzy.

I regularly bump into a woman who walks three Yorkshire Terriers in our local park, and it wasn't until one particular day earlier this year that we got chatting and I realised they weren't all her dogs. She said that one of them she walked for an elderly lady through The Cinnamon Trust, a charity I had never heard of.

Of course, this instantly sounded like an ideal charity for me to also volunteer at. I was already out walking my dog, I could definitely take another dog with me too, especially if that meant helping out an elderly or ill person.

Within about 2-3 weeks of me sending off my letter of application and becoming

accepted as a volunteer, I was matched up with a Shih Tzu called Benji who lived 5 minutes away from me. That week I went to meet him and his lovely owner Mrs Brown. Mrs Brown has been dealt a very unlucky hand in life when it comes to illness, so I was eager to meet her and help where I could. Benji took a little while to trust me at first as he wasn't used to many visitors and he clearly loved his owner and was very protective of her. After a cup of tea with Mrs Brown and feeding Benji treats, I won him round and he accepted me as his new walker.



Benji

I have been walking Benji twice a week for the past 3 months now. I gradually introduced my dog to him and now they are best buddies. I am now also able to let Benji off the lead on our walks - we have a very strong bond already and it is lovely to see him running around with other dogs.

Mrs Brown can't praise enough the positive impact these walks are having on Benji's life. He is sleeping better, more settled in the house, less anxious, better with strangers and much friendlier with other dogs.

Mrs Brown relies on the fact that Cinnamon Trust volunteers can walk Benji for her. Without them, she would not be able to keep him. It is very clear how much Benji and his owner love each other and it would be terrible if they had to be parted. I feel such a sense of reward being able to help out for both Mrs Brown's and Benji's well-being. I look forward to many more walks!



Louise Noble in Sheffield writes:

I am walking Badger and Meggie every Saturday at 11.00 for one and a half to two hours. I absolutely love it and I love them both to pieces. As with many volunteers, I can get my doggy 'fix' without having my own which is not possible for me.

The dogs now know the sound of my noisy old car and I can usually hear them barking in anticipation before I even arrive at the gate! Then it's non-stop barking whilst I say hello to Gladridge and get their leads on and grab some poo bags. Meggie the Collie has a particularly bossy bark -



Badger

'come on! COME ON!' Then they drag me out of the house down the path and then we all run up to the corner of the street, just for the sheer joy of being out together. Then we walk the rest of the way to the park in a more decorous manner. They never bark again during the whole walk, the barking is just when they are



Maggie

excited to see me. They are so different in their interests and personalities and very well-behaved around other people and dogs, so I really don't have to worry. If I take them anywhere new or different I always keep Badger on the lead as he has been known to disappear to follow new scents and he forgets all about me; it's far too exciting for him in a new place! Meggie has excellent recall and she wants to play ball with me the whole walk so she needs me for her entertainment. But if there is the slightest chance of meeting any sheep I always pop her on the lead as a precaution and she is as good as gold about it. The other thing I have to be aware of is games of football in the park – Meggie is a dreadful pitch invader and I don't want her to steal someone else's ball! She loves nothing more than joining in with a football team and even though I

always carry 2 or 3 balls for her to play with, and play with her the whole time, it's no contest for a real game of football. She goes temporarily deaf and the only way to get her back is to run around after her and grab hold of her as best I can (with everyone laughing at me, usually). But I think she is the most beautiful girl in the world.

We always stop for a while during the walk and sit on a bench where we have a little break, take in the scenery, and have treats and cuddles. Badger loves to roll on his back for a belly scratch, and push his nose into my bag. I always tell him how big his ears are. If there is a muddy puddle, Meggie will find it and sit in it. She will run and run and run after as many balls as I can throw for her, and she knows from the way I hold the ball which direction to run in before I've even thrown it, so it's my game to try and trick her into running the wrong way - not that easy as she's so clever! She carries the ball herself for the whole walk, because if I'm carrying it she can't relax because she expects me to throw it any second. When it's time to go home they are usually ready for it and they're both very good about the ball going back in the bag and leads on. Back at home, we tell Gladridge about our adventures, I make sure both water bowls are topped up (inside and outside) and they each have a couple of coming-home treats. Gladridge always says thank you for walking his dogs and I always say, no, thank YOU, it's my absolute pleasure! I am sure you hear this a lot, but huge thanks to The Cinnamon Trust for making this possible. I tell as many people as possible about your work so hopefully spreading the word in a small way in South Yorkshire.

Helen Westfoot in Cornwall sent this lovely photo and explains:

This is Ben, my youngest son, who was 8 years old when this photo was taken in June last year. He has been helping me on a regular basis over his short life time with dog walking for my 'many ladies in need', as has my other son, Sam. I have been a volunteer since 1998 so my sons have grown up with The Cinnamon Trust and have always enjoyed coming with me on walks and helped me with lots of different dogs over the years.



Ben with Molly

Ben has a particular affinity with animals as you can see in the picture, both he and Molly have smiling faces. His connection with animals is very special and they seem to like him too! He comes out in all weathers and never complains. Mrs King, Molly's owner, really loves Ben as well and always has a small bar of chocolate ready for after the walk.

Over the years Ben has also helped me walk Barney for Mrs Cocking and previous to that he regularly enjoyed walking Bailey for Mrs Baumbach. In his short life he has been an amazing young volunteer and very good company! It is for this reason I wanted to write something as a surprise for him in the newsletter.

Long may his enthusiasm for The Cinnamon Trust go on. He is an inspiration!



From Swansea **Hilary Pennington** says:

I met Ken and Bobby two years ago now with a request to determine whether Bobby behaved himself with other dogs! For two days I walked him without meeting a soul but, third time lucky, I met a lady with two Jack Russells. I tentatively approached with the request to see how they all got on. "Oh they'll be fine. That's Bobby, isn't it?" And with tails wagging, they were!

Next we met a German Shepherd puppy on his first walk out. "Great!" I thought, but with Bobby towering over him, the puppy sat down and proceeded to pat his nose! He couldn't have been more surprised....or gentle. So, with confidence, I could report back that he was just fine.



Bobby

Bobby and Ken are devoted to one another and the first problem, really, was to persuade Bobby to come with me. For the first few days he would suddenly put the brakes on and want to go home. We'd stop and 'have a little chat' accompanied by a tasty little treat and slowly he relaxed and began to enjoy himself! Even now, when I put Bobby's lead on, he looks towards Ken waiting for his permission to come with me.

As I drive up to the house, he recognises the sound of my car and I can see his head appear at the window. Occasionally, he seems to get his lips caught around his teeth and for all the world he looks as if he's smiling. I can't get close enough to take a photo because, once confirmed, he tears to the door barking!

I have to admit that he is a very strong dog and had no lead training at all. In the early days, I have been known to cling to a gate, fence or whatever until I could haul him back to me. He didn't take long to learn, though, that if he pulled we came to a standstill. But he would still chance his luck if he latched on to an interesting scent that had to be reached 'NOW'! Oh, how my shoulders ached for a while.

Now, he is a different dog. He understands that 'stay back' means stay by me. When he thinks we are at his 'free' bit, he looks at me with his huge brown eyes, waiting for the 'off you go' command! I have taken him out in the car to some of the Welsh beauty spots as I have a harness that clips into the seatbelt....but the little beast has learnt how to open it, or stands on the red button by accident - I'm not sure which - and I end up with slobbery chops breathing down my neck! He was never too keen to get into the car anyway, so I've gone off that idea and we just walk the local beauty spots!



Another of our young volunteers, **Sarah Allen**, sends this from St Andrews in Scotland:

Volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust is one of the best things I have ever done!

I currently walk Jack, a 12 year old Westie for his owner, Edith. I have been walking Jack once a week since I moved to Scotland in September of this year. Jack is such a character, he always puts a smile on my face when we go on walks

together! He has two speeds, very slow or very fast! It makes me laugh so much when he suddenly decides that he wants to start running. His little legs start moving so fast I have to quicken my pace to keep up with him! He is also such a friendly little dog and wants to say “hello!” to every dog that we see.

I feel very grateful to be walking Jack. I absolutely love dogs and was worried that I would miss out on interacting with a dog when I moved up to St Andrews after graduating with a degree in Animal Behaviour from the University of Exeter, based in Falmouth. During my time there I was lucky enough to walk two dogs for The Cinnamon Trust, Ki and Milly.

I started walking Ki, a gorgeous Red Setter cross Labrador in 2014, for his owner Gleynes. Whenever I took Ki for a walk he would get numerous comments on his appearance - he really is a gorgeous dog! He is also a very big dog, but I don't think he realises this most of the time - in fact he absolutely loves little dogs! He is very gentle around them and sometimes he would lay down to get on 'their level' to play with them. A true gentle giant! I loved walking Ki, both because I was able to make a doggy friend, and because volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust meant that I became good friends with Ki's owner, Gleynes. After walking Ki, we would always have a chat about what we were both up to. I have to say a lot of our talks were focused around two topics we loved: animals and food! I was very privileged that last year myself and Ki's other walkers were treated to a Christmas lunch by Gleynes. It was absolutely wonderful!



Sarah with Ki

I started walking Milly, a lovely (and lively!) Terrier cross, for her owner Catherine in February of this year. Whilst I only walked Milly for 6 months, it felt like I had spent longer with her and Catherine as we became very close. I walked Milly along the sea-front, which she and I both enjoyed a lot. She is so full of energy, and made sure that she said “hello” to every dog and person that we came across! When it was colder, or rainy, she would wear her bright pink coat which made sure she was the centre of attention! I was very lucky that Catherine would often treat me to lunch at a local café nearly every week. I loved spending time with Catherine and talking about what we had both been up to.



Milly

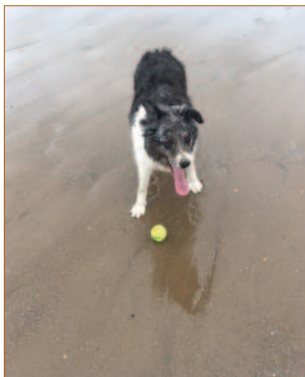
Leaving Falmouth to move to St Andrews was very difficult, part of that being because I had to stop walking Milly and Ki, and stop spending time with Gleynes and Catherine. However, we still keep in contact. I love writing cards to Gleynes and Catherine, updating them on what I am up to. Receiving replies from them is absolutely wonderful, and I feel very lucky that I have made such wonderful friends! I am planning to visit Falmouth again in the New Year, and catch up with Gleynes, Catherine, Ki and Milly, as I miss them all so much!

Volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust has been such a rewarding experience. Having the opportunity to interact with dogs when I am away from home (and my family dog, Ash) has been incredible. Making great friends with their owners has been absolutely wonderful too! I feel very lucky to be a volunteer for such an incredible charity. Being a volunteer helped me during my time at university. At times, university was stressful, and having the opportunity to de-stress with dog walks was so helpful! The Cinnamon Trust also helped when I moved to St Andrews, as walking Jack has allowed me to still spend time with dogs! I love being a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust!



With a little help from **Becky Jones**, her volunteer, **Beauty** has written from Glamorgan:

Hello, Beauty here. I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you about the two years I have spent playing BALL with Becky.



Beauty

Becky started as one of my fab Cinnamon Trust walkers in Dec 2015. It took us a while get to know each other. But the breakthrough moment for me was on THE BEACH with Becky and her dogs. They were chasing BALLS whilst I had this silly long trailing lead on (apparently, she was worried about losing me; no idea why, I knew where I was and that she was the route to getting home again!) Anyway, her dogs weren't much good at bringing THE BALL back, so I showed them what you are supposed to do!

After that Becky always brought THE BALL with her - my first training success. Some weeks we would go to our local park, the Gnoll, whilst other weeks it was THE BEACH. I loved both but Becky did have a habit of losing THE BALL at the Gnoll. Pesky trees, undergrowth and weirs took them. Thankfully, after a few months, she got it, THE BEACH was far better - my second training success. Now, we spend about an hour at THE BEACH most weeks, it's great! Becky takes me whatever the weather - my third

training success. Neither of us is made of sugar, we are not going to dissolve in the rain, some weeks I have been the only dog with a human on the beach!

I do like to look my best and enjoy a good towelling. I don't like going home covered in sand. Thankfully, Becky brings a towel and brush along to sort my coat out after our run (success number four) and I go back home to Tom and Eira looking like we've just taken a walk around town. It is not nice to spend the afternoon asleep with sand tickling my back! I enjoy taking Becky to THE BEACH and I know Tom and Eira are pleased that she and the other walkers exercise me so that I can continue keeping an eye on them.



Here's a happy, happy picture of **James** and **Banjo**! And here's the story behind it:



We had a call from James Spofforth on the 28th September, he had just received a call from Aintree Hospital who told him he had been booked in on the 2nd October to have emergency surgery for his stomach cancer. He was beside himself with worry as he had very little time to make arrangements for his little dog Banjo and was very distressed about what would happen to him. Our co-ordinator, Natalie, reassured him that she would work on the case straight away and within a couple of hours she had hit the jackpot finding Carol Hazelhurst. Carol went to meet James and Banjo the following day so she could put his mind to rest. When she arrived she found James was very weak and she took Banjo home with her so James could rest before his surgery.

James ended up having radical surgery on his stomach and his recovery was slow and Carol kept in touch with him letting him know how Banjo was doing. She let him know about all the little moments like when her grandchildren came to visit and Banjo really had a great time playing with them. At the beginning of January we received a lovely video from Carol who had filmed their happy reunion which

brought us all to tears. The video is available on our Facebook page.



Let's catch up with some of our life-long fosters.... **Hobie** is in Hampshire with **Sophia Kelly** who sends the most loving and lovely view:



Sophia with Hobie

I walked Hobie during my time at sixth form college for The Cinnamon Trust as I couldn't decide whether to volunteer with animals or the elderly - so I found Cinnamon and did both! I loved him as soon as I met him and walked him for a number of years for his owner, Mr Dowdeswell, who was in his 90's. Hobie was 8 when I first met him. He is a Border Collie cross Golden Retriever.

Mr Dowdeswell went into a care home after he broke his hip and Hobie then went to live temporarily with his other lovely dog walker, Lyn. I carried on

walking him at least weekly but couldn't have him at home as we had another family dog (Hobie does not like other dogs!)

Mr Dowdeswell's death coincided with me leaving home in 2012 and then I took Hobie on as my own where we lived together in my new flat. Hobie is now almost 16 and lives with me and my partner in Alton. He never leaves my side as he comes to work with me (I am a veterinary nurse) and also comes to the horses and the pub - wherever I go, he comes with me.

He started to show neurological signs this year indicative of a brain tumour so we drew up a bucket list for him. One was to enter a dog show, where we won the best rescue and best veteran class and placed in all others we entered. He was then chosen as best in show on the day out of the 30 or so participants. We were overwhelmed and the local newspapers put him on the front page, along with his story. This also ticked off having 5 minutes of fame!

His other completed bucket list adventures include camping (which he loves!) and travelling to another country - we visited Wales and stayed in a shepherd's hut. Hobie also had a trip to the beach to run on the sand and eat chips. He has eaten a big venison steak for dinner. We have revisited all his favourite walks where I used to take him when we first met. He became a star when he had a professional photo shoot where he was a complete natural and smiled in every photo! The only

item left to tick is to ride in a convertible car – which we have organised but it might be a bit cold to do this winter!

I hope other people will be inspired to do a bucket list for their dog as it has been great spending so much quality time with my boy. Thanks for taking the time to read our story.

PS – the show judges' critique read: The star of the day and Best in Show was Hobie, owned by Sophia Kelly, who stole both of our hearts. At the vintage age of 16 and a half and at his first ever dog show his story is, without a doubt, one of a kind and he is a very special lad indeed.



Sophia and Hobie at Oakhanger Fun Dog Show



Sharon Marks in East Sussex has **Shadow** on life-long foster.... who was then joined by **Zac**. She writes:

When Zoe called to ask if we would be able to take another foster dog, I will be honest and say that our first response was no – we had just finished a successful but tiring short term foster and we felt that we all needed a bit of a break. “Of course”, said Zoe, understanding and supportive as always.... “I’ll just send you through a quick photo of Zac, so that you can discuss it with your husband.”

The photo showed a little potato-shaped dog, sitting patiently in the hallway of a house, one ear up and one ear down, whose owner had died. I called my husband. “We can’t take another dog,” he quite rightly said. I sent the photo to him. “When should I pick him up?” he immediately emailed back.



Zac and Shadow

Zac is a charming older gentleman with strong opinions on a lot of things – food (he likes it and feels he should be given a lot of it); the sound of vans reversing (must be barked at with full volume); rain (will not step outside under any

circumstances); towels (would be happy to be given a rub down 24 hours a day). He needs a hand sometimes getting on and off the sofa or bed, which he asks for by wagging his entire back end. If you leave the house for anything longer than one minute, you will be welcomed back with grunts, snorts, squeaks and hurling himself onto his back for belly rubs. He always needs to find his tennis ball before going out for a walk, so the moment the lead appears, Zac disappears, returning only when the ball has been located and proudly presented to you.

Zac has fitted right in with our other two dogs, including our other long term Cinnamon Trust foster dog Shadow, who viewed him with great suspicion at first, but who soon realised Zac would be a good addition to the seagull attack squad that he leads. Bed times are a bit of a squash in our house, as all three dogs like to join us through the night when the heating switches off.

Our neighbours have been very entertained by our fluctuating cast of dogs, but all have complimented us on our growing collection. We feel very lucky and privileged to be able to provide a home for our brilliant pack, and look forward to getting to know the latest addition even better over the coming months and years.



Jenny and Martin Reed in Essex write about **Eric, Jazz** and **Kia**:

It was a Wednesday afternoon when Jenny, my wife, telephoned me to say The Cinnamon Trust had just called to see if we could have two dogs on a short term foster as their owner was terminally ill and could no longer cope. Jenny and I had been walking dogs for The Trust for some time and Jenny had also been giving talks. We had been walking Oscar, a Heinz 57, age questionable, for some time so two more dogs were no problem.

“What sort of dogs are they?” I asked, “a German Shepherd named Eric and a Dobermann named Jazz” was the reply. We’d never thought of having those breeds, ours had always been Spaniels or Red Setters. Never mind, they needed help.

So, off we went to pick them up. My first sight of Jazz was her rushing towards us barking loudly (something she never lost) down the garden path hotly pursued by Eric (barking just as loud). Believe me, that was a sight which made me think what had we let ourselves in for! This short-term foster for a number of reasons, mainly because we could not bear to let them go, turned into a ‘lifelong foster’. We arrived home with baskets, food, toys etc. Both quickly made themselves at home. Eric took to Jenny and followed her everywhere at her heels. I sometimes think if I got too close while he was about I was in for it!! Jazz just accepted everything. She loved nothing more than to park her

rear end on the settee next to you and let you stroke her. She liked to be warm and always let you know if the fire should be on. Once lit, it was a fight to get near it.

Our next great adventure was when we took them up to Jenny's horses with over 8 acres of fields plus lots of set-aside land. Jazz's eyes opened wide and she was off. Never have I seen a dog run so much for so long as she did, it wasn't long before she owned all the land and greeted strangers with a loud bark - enough to scare even the hardiest of dog people.

We had one or two issues with Jazz, like not wanting to come back when called, unwarranted barking at things, like people with trolleys, or rucksacks, and of course other dogs. I still hear her now in my mind.

Sadly, Eric died after one year but Jazz continued to bring love and joy to us. She felt the cold and always required a mac in the rain and a warm coat in the winter. As we had horses, she had matching 'Mark Todd' coats

Jazz was a great fundraiser for The Cinnamon Trust as well, attending many talks and shows using her charm to get people to give up their money or agree to sign up. Whenever Jenny or I gave a talk about The Trust, Jazz would enter with her favourite toy (a rubber chicken) in mouth, after which we didn't need to say much, she did all the talking - walking round the hall or room putting her head on people's laps to be stroked. I was always amazed that people seemed to have a biscuit or chew to give her as she went round, and of course the money came in.

She also became an unofficial 'PAT' dog at the residential home my 97 year old mother was in, putting a smile on many faces as she walked round the room talking to everyone. A few of the residents were afraid of her size to start with but Jazz soon put them at ease with a lick or a wag of her bottom (she only had a very small tail). Many looked forward to her visits and again titbits often appeared much to her delight.

She started to suffer with arthritis in her back legs and could no longer jump into the Land Rover, so a ramp was purchased, and training commenced to get her to walk up and down it. Of course, small pieces of cheese helped and she was soon running up and down without any problems.

However much you loved her she gave you it back four-fold. When she became ill it was a sad time; it was dreadful to see our Jazz barely able to walk and not eating. She was always ruled by her stomach and would eat whatever you gave her or whatever she found in the fields, and believe me some of those were not pleasant. She would often return to the yard with a 'lucky' rabbits foot in her mouth - what had happened to the rest of the rabbit we were never sure. Her

great passion was to either chase foxes or run around the field putting up pheasants or any other bird that happened to stray onto her land.

Jazz developed breathing difficulties and was booked into the vets for x-rays and other tests.

We took her to the vets on a bright autumn morning to have an x-ray of her chest and stomach and to see if anything could be done about her throat. She went downhill so fast it was a shock to us both. We had to carry her in to the surgery, and although nothing was said we both feared the worst.

We both went to work and I have to say each time the phone rang I jumped in case it was the vet. I know little or no work got done that morning, but why worry it's only a dog... **only a dog**.... this was not just a dog it was Jazz who had come into our lives and stolen our hearts.

The phone call came and Thomas (our vet) asked us to go and see him as there were a number of issues which needed to be discussed and decisions to be made. Her condition was very complex with a number of ongoing issues. It was with a heavy heart that I picked up Jenny and returned to the surgery.

Thomas took us into the consulting room and explained that Jazz was very ill. He explained a number of issues about her larynx and kidneys, by which time I think we both knew what the outcome would be.

Having agreed that the only option was to have her put to sleep we were taken to Jazz who was so pleased to see us, but I also think she knew what was going to happen. She looked so ill and it had all happened so quickly - we were not prepared for our time together to end. We spent a long time loving her and talking to her about all the good times we had encountered together and telling her what an angel she was. There never was going to be a right time for her to go. I held her head and Jenny cuddled her and we both whispered sweet nothing to her until the weight of her head told me she had gone. I closed her eyes and laid her head down on her blanket. Looking at her there you would think she was asleep in front of the fire.

The Cinnamon Trust arranged to have her cremated and we scattered her ashes at the stables, in the entrance to the fields where she always stood waiting to be told whether we were going left or right, full of life.

We had an e-mail from Moira at The Cinnamon Trust which I think summed things up. "You gave Jazz and Eric a wonderful life and you were there for them when they both needed someone to love and make life happy again. Jazz could not have had a better foster Mum and Dad."

Many a time whilst stroking or grooming her, or just while she sat beside us, I would say “how did we end up with a dog like you”. She would just look at me and maybe give me a small lick. Jenny often said “I think she chose us”.

There was now an empty basket by the radiator with her toys in. We hadn't the heart or wish to take it away.

As I said earlier why worry it's only a dog.... **only a dog**.... this was not just a dog it was Jazz who came into our lives so unexpectedly and stole our hearts.

Thank you Eric and Jazz

But life goes on and other dogs need help....

A few months later and the inevitable phone call from Moira brought Kia, a 3 year old German Shepherd, into our lives. I was unsure, I thought it was too soon after Jazz, but Jenny thankfully talked me round and we agreed to have her for assessment - needless to say she is still with us.

Her owner had gone into hospital and passed away whilst there. Kia was put into kennels and The Cinnamon Trust contacted. We drove to London and arrived at the kennels. They informed us she was very stressed and had not taken to kennel life well (I now see why The Cinnamon Trust have sanctuaries).

When I saw her she seemed very underweight (29 kilos) and seemed to have such a big head. We said hello, stoked her and opened the back of our Land Rover. She needed no help to get in and seemed to be pleased to be leaving. She then slept for the next two hours while we drove home.

We arrived home and Jazz's basket, with a clean blanket and Kia's toys, was soon occupied.

Kia is now part of the family. Jenny says she is a one man dog - I can't think why. She goes everywhere with us, and again the horses are a source of great fun, except Kia is always trying to round them up. Unlike Jazz, she likes to chase squirrels rather than birds and is always puzzled when they vanish up a tree. She also loves water and can often be heard splashing her way along the stream by the fields or a puddle left by the rain.

She also loves to carry something in her mouth be it a tennis ball or the largest piece of tree she can find.

Like Jazz, she attends our talks about The Cinnamon Trust and once people have got used to her size they take her to their hearts.

I have never known a softer, friendlier dog, but when guarding the house or horse yard, a dog you can trust to look after you.

May there be many more years of long walks and playful evenings in front of the fire with her.

All we can say is thank you Cinnamon Trust for bringing Eric, Jazz and Kia into our lives, and to anyone reading this and thinking about dog walking or fostering DO IT, you will never regret it



Benji is bringing happy times to **Rosemary Haines** in Cornwall:

After being utterly devastated by the death of my beloved Border Collie last August, I swore never to have another dog. Zac could never be replaced and besides, at 72 years old, it wasn't fair to think of taking on another pup.

But in the months that followed, I sank further and further into depression and isolation. Without a dog, there was no reason for walks, no reason to get dressed each morning and I started to do my shopping online. My whole world had altered drastically, revolving now around my armchair, TV and laptop.

I knew this was bad and I needed to find a reason to get out and about again; In short, I needed a dog. And somewhere out there was a dog who needed me.



Benji

Then, through The Cinnamon Trust, I heard about Benji, a Bichon Frise, whose elderly owners were no longer able to care for him. After some chats on the phone with Moira and a Home Check, Benji came to live with me - and changed my life completely. From a short walk that first day, we have since walked many miles together over Bodmin Moor, (where he's learned how to behave around sheep, cattle and ponies), on beaches, through woods, along the coastal path and down country lanes. We thoroughly enjoy each other's company, we're fitter and happier and he's a very happy, relaxed and well socialised little dog.

I am so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for bringing us together and for all the support I've been given. Since having Benji I have told lots of people all about the work The Trust do and introduced a friend who had become unable to exercise his two little dogs - he now has a Trust volunteer who takes them out for him. I would recommend fostering to anyone who, like me, is in need of companionship and a

reason to live again. It's such a good feeling to know that you've made a difference in a dog's life, too.



Sam and **Becky Croft** in Wiltshire tell of their love for **Otto** and **Lily** (and **Lucy** and **Freddie**)....

Our journey with The Cinnamon Trust began through a chance conversation with a friend who volunteered as a dog walker. It came to light that three miniature Long-Haired Dachshunds were in need of a loving home having sadly lost their owner, and just a few days after our conversation 'The Sausages' arrived in our lives.

Lucy, Freddie and Otto were inseparable and adorable, enjoying short strolls and long sleeps. They fitted into our lives and filled our hearts (and all our friends and families hearts too!). At 16, Lucy was slightly blind, deaf (selectively - dinner bowls were no problem!) and determined with a Mary Berry-esque quality to her. Freddie was a handsome gent at 12, and at a sprightly 6 Otto was their ever protective bodyguard.

We had a great year with all three, and a Christmas holiday with them all to Cornwall turned into an engagement and visit to Trust HQ to meet the wonderful Moira! Sadly, shortly after, our hearts were broken when we lost the lovely Lucy and in quick succession the wonderful Freddie (ever the gentleman, he wasn't going anywhere without Lucy).

The Trust were fantastic in supporting us through some difficult decisions and helping Otto through what was a tough time. He lived the life of a lone ranger, which included perks such as sleeping under the bed, until Lily arrived on the scene and put a stop to that!



The perfect wedding guests!

Again in need of a forever home, Lily was not yet 3 when she arrived, and full of energy! She and Otto quickly became the best of pals, and did an excellent job at our wedding in April of being adorable and taking the guests for walks!

The decision to foster through The Cinnamon Trust was one of the best we have ever made, and we have enjoyed every moment of having The Sausages in our lives. We really are very thankful for our little family



Louis is firmly ensconced with the **Smith family** in Derbyshire. **Coralie** writes:

As clichéd as it sounds, fostering Louis seems as though it was meant to be.



Louis

As a young girl, all I wanted was a dog who would run and fetch balls and sticks, swim and generally be as dogs should be. Instead, my mother bought me a Miniature Yorkshire Terrier, which doted on her and was not interested in any of the above. I felt cheated.

I had hoped for a dog such as a Cocker/Springer Spaniel as they are energetic, loyal and gentle characters - and how true this proves to be with Louis, who has fulfilled everything we wanted from a dog and more.

In April 2016, we received a call from Debbie saying that Louis' owner was seriously ill and about to go into hospital and would we consider short term fostering. "Would you like to see a photograph?"

Debbie asked. As soon as it arrived, there was no question - yes we would gladly have him. He wasn't yet a year old and was full of vitality and we were lucky enough to live in the Peak District so had miles and miles of lovely walks on our doorstep.

Unfortunately, prior to Louis even arriving, it became apparent that his owner was gravely ill and would not be leaving hospital. We were therefore asked if we would foster him for life.

Following that phone call, everywhere we went there seemed to be signs that he was meant to come to us. On a walk in Dovedale, just down the road, there was a 2-metre banner with a chocolate Spaniel on it - sign number 1. On a trip to our local agricultural store there was a sign behind the till for Spaniel puppies - sign

number 2 and generally, everywhere we seemed to go, there were Spaniels, Spaniels, Spaniels – sign number 3.

Norma and Ian from Gateshead were the lovely people to short term foster Louis whilst we were vetted and house checked for suitability. He was very happy with them and they loved having him, but as they were retired and wanted to travel more, they felt it would be unfair to have a young dog.

We collected Louis on 22nd May 2016 and he was full of energy. He arrived with 2 bowls and a blanket with holes in it and Norma & Ian had bought him a soft bed and a travelling crate.

He now has a loving family and home. Hundreds of soft toys, tennis balls, and sticks. He walks and swims regularly in the rivers and thoroughly enjoys his life. He knows all the local walks and loves running through the long grasses in June where he jumps so that all you can see are his ears flapping. It makes us happy to see him happy!

We have taken this Northern lad from his beginnings in Hull all over the country, and even to see the lovely ladies at The Cinnamon Trust in Hayle, Cornwall, who found him his new life.



Bea and **Patch** in Cumbria have been dubbed The Incredible Camping Cats – **Beth Pipe** writes:

From the moment I told my husband I'd seen a picture of a couple of cats on Facebook in need of a life-long foster home he knew the battle was lost. We'd sadly lost our cat back in June 2016 and by January 2017 felt we were ready to take on a new owner (because, let's face it, we think we own them but all cat owners know that it's definitely the other way around!).

Bea and Patch are 12 year old sisters who'd enjoyed a lovely quiet life with their previous owner – an elderly lady who had sadly passed away. When we spoke to The Cinnamon Trust about them we did explain that we'd be taking them away in our camper van with us (our previous cat had enjoyed adventures from Lands End to John O'Groats!) and they didn't seem unduly concerned.



Patch and Bea

The house check passed without incident, although one question did make me smile: *"Where will the cats sleep?"* we were asked. I replied *"In my experience, the cats will sleep pretty much wherever the cats want to sleep and there's not a lot of point arguing with them."* I did worry that my lack of feline discipline may be viewed unfavourably, but luckily for us we passed with flying colours.

Bea and Patch arrived on 26th January 2017 and their different characters were evident from the off – Patch is a trusting and loveable cat who will do pretty much anything for a cuddle. Bea is a more cynical creature who took a while to win over – at first when we proffered tempting titbits like pieces of fresh chicken she'd glare at us as if we were attempting to poison her – but now she too is a complete cuddle monster, though only on her own terms.

After a few weeks we began taking them in the van on the drive, just sitting with them for an hour or two to get used to it. Then we went on a few short trips along the coast and sat and had a picnic so they could get used to travelling and finally we braved a weekend away in Whitley Bay – about 2 hours drive from home.

While they love being in the van it's taken them a while to become comfortable with the driving, but Felliway sprays have worked wonders and they now understand that a trip away will end up with extra cuddles and a few tasty treats. They've always been house cats and at home they never even get on the windowsills, but when we're away they both take a keen interest in watching birds, rabbits and other wildlife from the van windows, though they never make any attempt to escape.

Since our trip to Whitley Bay they've now been to Dumfries and Galloway, Dunbar, Moffat, Salisbury, Southampton, Worcester and Denham, where we camped for a week or so while visiting family. On a practical note we use a covered litter box, keep a small stash of medicines with us and have our vet and The Cinnamon Trust on speed dial in case of mishaps.

Now, they're properly used to the van. Bea, in particular, has taken great delight in exploring every nook and cranny – she was a very poor jumper when we got her but since exploring the van she now quite happily leaps all over the place (not always a good thing!)

They travel side by side in their cat carriers, generally sleeping through most journeys now. Next year we're planning on changing our campervan for a newer model (ours is 15 years old). One of the key requirements is 'must be room for the cats' which I am sure will entertain no end of the dealers we visit but, now that they have a taste for adventure, it would be mean to leave them behind.

It's fantastic that The Cinnamon Trust have supported with this, and they were full

of helpful ideas and advice to help us keep them calm. We really missed having a cat with us to share our many adventures and now we have two it's double the fun (double the trouble too, sometimes!). I'm so glad that the family of the lady who passed away can be reassured that her much loved pets are now in a fun and loving, if rather more adventurous, new home



Maggie and **John Martin** in West Sussex pay tribute to **Tiny**:

Tiny was a little dog with an enormous personality. Everyone who knew her fell in love with her - even non dog lovers!

My love affair with Tiny began in October 2007 when my husband, John, and I came to Cinnamon Trust HQ to collect a temporary foster dog following the death of our dear old Labrador, Bruno. We were sitting in Reception waiting for Jeanette to come out with the paperwork when the door from the office opened. A little bundle of energy shot past Jeanette, jumped on my shoulder, licked my ears and settled down on my neck. Jeanette suggested we swap dogs as Tiny had



Tiny

'chosen' me for her forever home. Jeanette was short term fostering her as Tiny had had a very unsettling start in life and had many health problems.

Well, with the support of The Trust and particularly Jeanette and Moira we began the task of getting this dear little girl to better health. This involved operations, long term medication and lots of love. For a little girl who had such a bad start in life she was unbelievable - I have never known a friendlier dog. Her plume of a tail never stopped wagging. She loved everyone and everyone loved her. She became an emblem for The Cinnamon Trust and accompanied me on all the talks I did to publicise The Trust during the years up to 2010 (whilst we lived in Gwithian near Hayle) and for the following years in Sussex, right up to a few weeks before her death in October 2016.

She attended every fete and sale we held for The Trust, collected cheques from benefactors, took part in (and occasionally won) fun dog shows and captured the hearts of residents of care and nursing homes when we gave our talks. She worked hard, mainly by wagging her tail and giving kisses and was always happy to be rewarded with a sausage roll or biscuit! This prompted Moira to comment on one of our visits to Hayle that her name should be changed to "Not so Tiny",

so we had to address this and succeeded quite well!

On one memorable occasion we were invited to receive a cheque from the Littlehampton Dog Training Club who had been saving all their fundraising for the year for The Trust. John and myself were invited to the Christmas Party with Tiny where the doggy trainees were to show off their skills. Tiny, as guest of honour, was on her extending lead whilst I was chatting and the dogs had to follow their owners through a line of distractions, ignoring the treats and focusing on the finish line. This was fine, except that unbeknown to me Tiny's lead was in extending mode and she was rapidly demolishing all the sausages which the "good" dogs were obediently ignoring! She brought the house down with laughter!

One of her health problems was that she was quite deaf even when young and in later life she could hear very little. However, her eyesight and sense of smell made up for this - she could smell a sausage a mile off! One of my neighbours invited us to dinner and we couldn't believe it when he produced a silver salver with neatly arranged chipolatas, specially cooked for Tiny. She would happily have eaten them all but we insisted on taking some home!

She was such a sensitive little girl. One of our friends sadly developed throat cancer and I am convinced that she knew this before anyone else. She used to jump on to his lap and lick the side of his face always in the same place and this turned out to be the site of his illness. I have heard of this before but never witnessed it.

Typical of the Cavalier breed, Tiny had a heart murmur and this worsened over the years. She responded well to medication though and our lovely vet, Tania, who always admitted to all that Tiny was her favourite dog, said that it was amazing she lived past five or six years.

Tiny has left a giant hole in the lives of so many and I will never forget her. I have a new puppy now, a Cavapoo called Rosie, who will accompany us in our work for The Cinnamon Trust when she is old enough. She will never replace Tiny, but I hope she will continue in her pawprints!

I am so thankful for the years we had with a very special girl and I am so pleased that she was able to publicise The Trust and help so many people and their pets.



And causing chaos for **Jane Binmore** and her family in Cornwall are **Cocoa** and **Shushi**:

I never considered having two dogs until i met the mother of my son's friend in the

woods. She had rescued two young Springer Spaniels who were mother and daughter, but only six months apart. They were so lovely together and she took them on as she didn't want them to be separated. They look like a two headed/four legged dog as they run alongside each other on most of their walk. Hence my application said I'd foster two dogs if they'd been together. I'm so glad I did as the moment all the paperwork had gone through for The Cinnamon Trust I got a call about Cocoa and Shushi needing a home.



My family and I had been mourning the loss of our crazy, shadow chasing, beautiful Sprocker Spaniel who died from Lymphoma a few days after his third birthday last November. He was diagnosed the previous January with only a few months to live. As you can imagine, as much as we wanted a dog, we didn't have the emotional energy to rush out and get another. There was a definite void in our household without a dog and the children were asking when we were going to get one. My mum suggested The Cinnamon Trust as she had her lovely Border Terrier from them and we all enjoy meeting the array of different dogs she also short-term fosters. I thought this would be a good inroad to mend our broken hearts and do some good, looking after a dog short term. I



Cocoa and Shushi

I never thought the first call I would get would be for our own dogs! It is called long-term fostering which may have put me off if I didn't know first-hand from my mum that this is no problem, only helpful. From the moment Moira told me of these two I was so excited and hopeful. I wanted to know where they were so I could get them straight away and I was so pleased my partner felt the same way! The call was Thursday late afternoon and after a visit from the lovely Patrick, we had them in our house on Saturday night! They were as excited as us and settled straight away. Amazing.

All of our family and friends adore them and they have been truly loved and looked after. They are quite ruffy-tuffy girls when they play together. If there is any open space on a walk they start chasing each other. Cocoa is quite merciless with not letting go of Shushi's tail (and sometimes ear!) but this seems to be all part of the game as Shushi starts it all up again. Cocoa does like to nibble your ear given the

chance. It doesn't hurt, but does tickle unbelievably! They are on the go most of the day but equally like to cuddle up on the sofa with us in the evening. They were only 7 and 13 months when we first got them and we feel so lucky and blessed to have them in our lives as they bring such joy and just the right amount of chaos!



Kenidee Davies who is just 8 years old loves **Lucy** and **Gypsy**:

Lucy and Gypsy have been with us for a whole year.



Lucy and Gypsy

As we don't know their birthday, I asked if we could use my birthday as their birthday. We all had a party and my brother Fletcher (aged 4) and I made a special sardine cake, complete with a candle. We also made them a card and bought them a present.

A week later I took Lucy and Gypsy into my class and gave a talk about The Cinnamon Trust and how the dogs came to us. I answered lots of questions and everyone in my class now knows all about The Cinnamon Trust. I gave leaflets to all my friends. Lucy and Gypsy enjoyed the visit and were very well behaved.

I did a table top sale with things my Grandmother knits but the weather was not very good so we didn't get many customers.

I did enjoy myself though and told everyone about The Cinnamon Trust, gave everyone a booklet and raised £15.00.



You wouldn't want this to happen every day.... We received a letter from **Jennie Baynton** in St Leonards, East Sussex, it reads:

I am writing to you about one of your wonderful walkers (without her knowledge) - **Carole Curley** in St Leonards.

Carole walks two dogs, Ben & Sonny, who are owned by older ladies in St. Leonards who cannot walk them. She takes them to a local wood where they can scamper around. One day she suddenly heard a distressed noise from one of them and on running to where they were she found that Ben was in great distress.

It was at the edge of a reservoir bank and Ben's back foot had caught under a strong tree root. His body was upside down towards the water's edge and he had to hold his head up to keep it out of the water.

Carole jumped into the cold muddy water - without a second thought - and managed to support his head to prevent him from drowning, whilst someone else came to help and managed to ease him up the bank and release his foot. Carole was in the water almost up to her neck!

Ben was ok but his leg could so easily have been broken and would most certainly have drowned.

Carole is a most conscientious and caring person – walking several dogs, fitting them in around her full time job. She already rises incredibly early prior to an early start at work.

She used to care for my precious dog Hugo, who very sadly had to be put to sleep earlier this year. Carole and her husband, Steve, have become good friends and they have been most supportive of me since Hugo's death.

Many thanks for all that you do to help so many people and their dogs. Your support in every way has meant a great deal to me and my precious boy Hugo.

As I said, Carole does not know that I am writing to you but I do think she deserves a little recognition of her work - and the dunking in the pond!

Carole received a Gold Award in 2015



Gillian Broome in Wiltshire had a very sad experience, she says:

I walked Poppy and Jess for Jeanette for at least a couple of years and got to know Jeanette and the dogs well during this time. I walked them two or three times a week and they loved their walks. Jeanette, unfortunately, was not well and couldn't walk more than a few yards. The doctor did try and get her to go into hospital on a few occasions but she wouldn't leave the dogs; they were all she had.

On the 13th October I went over as usual. The door was locked but I let myself in with the key kept in an access key lock box. The dogs as usual were very excited to see me and after putting their leads on I went into the lounge to unfortunately find that Jeanette had died. Obviously this was a great shock and the ambulance and police were called. Jamie, the other dog walker, very kindly

came over to give me support. Jamie contacted The Cinnamon Trust and they pulled out all the stops to find the dogs a temporary foster home. Luckily I don't think the dogs had been in the flat long on their own and didn't seem to be traumatised by their experience.

Since then we've heard from The Cinnamon Trust that Poppy and Jess had been found a long-term foster family - they look so happy and settled in their new home.

I would like to thank everyone at The Cinnamon Trust for helping, I don't know what we would have done without them

Jamie Robus, Jeanette's other walker says:

After registering with The Cinnamon Trust I soon had an initial meeting with Jeanette and a list of do's and do not's from her. Mostly do not's to be honest – Jeanette was (rightly) very protective of her babies.

So, for the next few years, I'd go around and take the girls out three or four times a week. They'd always be happy to see me and more often than not would be perched on the back of a chair looking out the window waiting for me (or Gill, their other walker) to come. Time permitting I'd quite often stay and have a coffee with Jeanette after our walks and we became very close friends.

Since Jeanette has passed away The Trust kept Gill and I informed of Poppy and Jess' progress and it was lovely to get an email with pictures of them happy in their new home; I must admit I shed a little tear of happiness seeing them look so settled and happy. I know Jeanette would be grateful as well.



Nick with Poppy and Jessy

Poppy and Jess are very happy in their forever foster home with **Nick, Marie, Danny, Kate** and **Gabrielle Gee** in Newcastle and here's what they think:

We were lucky enough to foster the adorable Poppy and Jessy on the 1st of November 2017. They are so happy and are just lovely little dogs. We are a five adult household so they are among a lot of company and have settled really well.

They greet everyone with such excitement including us - even when we have been to the loo for literally five minutes!

They were obviously very well loved by their owner because they are very affectionate and sweet. They are good with other dogs too; Poppy is so the boss and loves cuddles more than Jessy but we always make sure she isn't left out!

They love the beach and park and have brought a lot of joy to our house. Thank you so much, Cinnamon Trust.



Why we can never be 9 'til 5....

On 17th December a friend of our member **Mr Peter Townsend** (Norfolk) called. He was very concerned that Mr Townsend was refusing to go into hospital because he did not want to leave his dog, **Tallis**. Mr Townsend was persuaded that we would find someone who would be careful of Tallis' tummy (he is prone to Colitis). We would also make sure he would be allowed to sleep in his bed in their bedroom and we would definitely find someone who would love and take very good care of him. After much reassurance Peter went into hospital to receive emergency treatment. Volunteer **Janet Bristor** collected Tallis the same day and cared for him for five weeks. She kept in touch with Peter and he and Tallis were joyfully reunited on Christmas Eve.

* * * * *

We received a call from **Michelle**, a nurse from the Royal Free Hospital London, at 9.30 on a Saturday morning on our emergency line. A lady called **Mrs Vetter** was in A & E Resuscitation and before she lost consciousness the first time she said "Cinnamon Trust and help my dog". They said she had come round a couple of times and was now getting very distressed so they wanted to tell her it was OK, we were helping. The nursing team were excellent. They told us she had arrived in the early hours of the morning and had keys on her. We said we had found her on our database so had her address. We just needed to find someone who did not mind collecting keys and a dog that could have been anything from a Rottweiler to a Chihuahua! **Con Callaghan** went to the hospital and provided ID so he could collect a key from them and then we waited for the call....a very young and lively little Maltese terrier who could not have been happier to see Connor! After a day or so Mrs Vetter regained consciousness and we found out that her little dog was called **Harley**. Mrs Vetter was in for less than a week and so pleased to have her dog home, happy and healthy.

* * * * *

At 6.30pm on Tuesday 9th May, **PC Metcalf** from Hayle, Cornwall called our emergency service. The police were attending a lady who had been found dead

and she was wearing a Cinnamon Trust sweatshirt. He asked if we could see if we had any records on the lady and if we could help with her elderly cat. **Mrs Jean Leuty** was indeed a member and a regular visitor to our Head Office in Hayle, a huge cat lover who had registered all of her cats with The Trust since 2002. **Bilbo**, her beautiful 16 year old Tabby, was taken to the vets for a check-up and was then taken to Poldarves Sanctuary as Jean would have wanted.

* * * * *

Mr Alfred Brown, Essex (aged 78) was rushed into hospital in the early hours of 14th December after a suspected stroke and had two dogs left home alone - **Lucy** and **Leo**, 11 year old Yorkies. A friend rang in asking for help. By 10:20am volunteer **Alan Watson** had collected Lucy and Leo. This is Alan's first foster for The Cinnamon Trust and he is doing a brilliant job, took the dogs on holiday in his campervan over the New Year and has sent photos to Mr Brown in hospital. Mr Brown remains in hospital with Sepsis.

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Mr Terry Radford, Gloucestershire, aged 80 was rushed into hospital on three occasions in December 2017 with chest pains. Carers rang in to advise dog **Sammy** (14 year old Jack Russell) was left home alone and asking for immediate foster. On each occasion volunteer **Maureen Coughlin** in North Wales drove to Bristol at short notice to collect Sammy, including twice over the Christmas period. Mr Radford is still in hospital and Sammy is still very happy with Maureen.

* * * * *

Mr Gordon Hall, Sussex, aged 84, was rushed into hospital after a fall. His dog, **Murphy** (11 year old Jack Russell) was left home alone. Volunteer **Corinne Roberts** had offered to foster Murphy and local volunteer **Kate Bendix** did an emergency collection and transport. All sorted and Murphy safe within an hour of us being contacted. Mr Hall is still in hospital and will be going into respite. Corinne is happy to foster Murphy as long as needed.



Sarah Webster in Liverpool is justly proud of her 12 year old son **Owen**, she sent this:

Owen is 12 years old and has volunteered for The Cinnamon Trust in his spare time since December 2015. Owen and his family, feeling the loss of their family dog, signed up to volunteer and walk a beautiful, young Spaniel who lives a few miles away. Owen has, without fail, given at least five hours a week to pick up, walk and

return this high energy dog who adores him and follows him everywhere. They have had many adventures together, in forests, up hills and on sand dunes. You'd only have to hear her yelping when he arrives to collect her and you would have no doubt of the love between them.

But the real magic is that which he brings to the elderly owner's life. She has no family and lives alone; her face lights up when she sees Owen. She loves to see how much he has grown and find out how he is getting on at school. When she had to go into hospital, Owen and his family looked after her dog for three weeks. She knew her beloved pet would be well looked after by Owen.



Owen and Molly

On Wednesday 28th June Owen was recognised for his achievements at The Believe Awards, held at the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool. Owen was the proud winner of the 'Bringing Magic to Others' award. The Believe Awards are an annual evening celebrating amazing, inspirational, young people in the North-West area. Owen not only received a mocktail, three course dinner, and entertainment, but he also took home an amazing goody bag, vouchers, trophy and a certificate - truly a night to remember!



Owen at The Believe Awards

Owen and his family tell people about The Cinnamon Trust wherever they go and it was an excellent opportunity to spread the word and try and recruit some new volunteers. Well done, Owen! Your family, school and The Trust are proud of you!

And **Eileen Banford** says:

Owen and his family are now like my own family. I don't have any relatives so I cannot express how much joy I have gained from them coming into my life. They are always there for me if I need them and Owen in particular is a lovely chap who Molly just adores. They have so much fun together and when I went in for my knee

operation last January I knew that Owen would take such good care of her and that they would have a great time.



In 2017 **Christine Richer** (Devon) who has been a volunteer for 17 years was awarded a Gold Certificate for exceptional service – she had transported 100 bereaved pets to their forever foster homes or, as she would say, “to loving arms”. Christine is battling a brain tumour now but the local newspaper were so impressed they told her story and published this lovely picture of Christine with her beloved dog, Tuga.



Volunteers who have received a **Gold Certificate** for exceptional service this time are:

Jamie Robus (Wiltshire), **Robin Plunkett** (Hampshire), **Mark Green** (Bristol) and **Susan Richards** (Shropshire)

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Helen Westfoot (Cornwall), **Jenny** and **Martin Reed** (Essex), **Judy Massie** (Essex), **Melanie Knibbs** (Norfolk), **Myra Bennett** (Somerset), **Linda Jones** (Glamorgan), **Jeanette Withey** (Gwent), **Diane Lester** (Buckinghamshire), **Lora** and **Alan Wicks** (Cornwall), **Janice Martin** (Sussex) and **Gillian Broome** (Wiltshire).

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

Rosalyn Philips (Kent), **Natascha Nelson** (Isle of Wight), **Carolyn Smith** (Lancashire), **Judith Staight** (Surrey), **David Smailes** (Northamptonshire) and **Julie West** (Hampshire).



All the views, the mix of stories, the things that happen just go to prove over and over how much we rely on our volunteers and how very special they are. So, to each and every one of you, thank you can't be said often enough. You bring light and love, fun and laughter, friendship and care to thousands of owners and their beloved pets each and every day and it matters so much.

At Crufts, **Fish4Dogs** launched their volunteer recruitment drive for us – they are going to promote The Trust and encourage new volunteers at their stands at all the

shows; give mini goodie bags to all new volunteers, and super hampers as prizes for anyone running events as well as promoting The Trust to all their customers. In case you haven't come across their products, Fish4Dogs make super smelly, completely natural fish treats and biscuits which dogs really love. They make cat treats and food as well!



Our veterinary nurses talk about.... arthritis

Many of you will have already 'met' Emma and Sarah, our fully qualified vet nurses on call 24/7 to give help, advice and support to all our fosterers. A new feature for the newsletter will cover a different ailment each time. Here, they write about arthritis:

Arthritis degenerates the normal structure of the joint, this causes pain and reduced use of the joint and limb. This reduced use causes the surrounding muscles, ligaments and tendons to become weak, the body then compensates elsewhere which causes even more pain! Often, we find the best way to combat the pain and mobility problems this disease causes is by using a combination of therapies all of which can help in different ways.

At The Cinnamon Trust we embrace a holistic approach which means to treat the body as a whole rather than treating the symptoms. This always starts with an excellent diet - we advocate wholesome, fresh food which is absolutely key in managing a disease such as arthritis. A good diet can reduce inflammatory processes in the body and provide the building blocks our bodies need to heal. Exercise management is also key, it is essential to the health and wellbeing of our pets and we highly encourage gentle walks in most of our dogs. Games and grooming are also so important to pets who cannot exercise as they once did and keep the mind happy and occupied. We also use joint supplements which contain Glucosamine and Chondroitin, these help the body to repair damaged cartilage. We often use these in conjunction with fish oils as Omega 3 has excellent anti-inflammatory properties. Herbs such as Devils Claw Root, Turmeric and Rosehip are also excellent at reducing inflammation. We use the homeopathic remedy Rhus Tox which is helpful for creaky joints. We have recently started using CBD paste and we have had some good results in dogs with chronic pain issues.

Other therapies include acupuncture which we recommend a lot, as it both reduces pain and discomfort and relaxes tense muscles. Laser therapy is another one of our favourites, this is non-invasive so even the most worried of pets can benefit as they simply have to sit there having a nice fuss! For those of you who aren't familiar with it, laser therapy increases the circulation to the affected area, drawing water, oxygen and nutrients to where it is needed, providing the best possible environment for good healing and reducing inflammation in the process.

Hydrotherapy and Physiotherapy are incredibly useful for building up muscles and increasing range of movement in affected joints. As we have mentioned earlier, muscle wastage makes it difficult for pets to use their affected limbs properly and compensating for this can cause strains elsewhere in the body. Hydrotherapy can help to correct this and it is often a relief for a dog to begin to move freely again.

How the different remedies helped Bertie:



Bertie

Bertie is a 13 year old Staffie x Jack Russell. In July 2016 he ruptured his cruciate ligament and needed a surgical repair. Bertie never quite recovered full range of movement in his leg and seemed stiff and sore. We advised some hydrotherapy but even that did not help and it was suspected that he had some damage to his meniscus.

His vet felt he would need to stay on pain relief and prescribed Metacam and Pardale for Bertie as he was so sore. The medication made Bertie feel nauseous and miserable and we were keen to get him off both sets of medication. Bertie had been taking Yumove (Glucosamine, Green-lipped Mussel, Hyaluronic Acid) for a few months so we upped that to a loading dose for 4 weeks and added in Devils Claw Root at a therapeutic dose of 2mls/10kg (higher than the advised amount on the bottle but in line with up-to-date information and dose rates for chronic inflammation). To everyone's delight Bertie has responded beautifully and has never looked back. Even neighbours and friends have commented on how well and bouncy he is. Bertie has been maintaining his good health and mobility since April 2017.

We work closely with our vets all around the UK and it is great when we find that many are all in favour of our holistic approach and alternative/complementary therapies which do not have the detrimental side effects of most drugs. And it is especially rewarding for us when we see the difference that can be made to our Cinnamon Trust pets' lives.



Pet Friendly Care Homes

Our assessors have been out once again, visiting the 1200 care homes and

retirement complexes on our register.

We will be using the assessors' reports to help us shortlist contenders for our Pet Friendly Care Home Awards and we will be announcing the winners later this year.

We are always delighted to welcome new homes and retirement complexes onto our register – here are some stories from a few of them....

Sunrise of Banstead in Surrey is home to five canaries who have been bred there. Fred, Ginger and Brucie are house pets and Smudge and Smitten belong to a resident. The home has a wishing well and the resident, who used to have a pet finch when he was a boy, wished for some birds of his own. Some secret planning was done and on his 90th birthday his daughter unveiled the bird cage she had bought him. To his surprise, inside were two of Fred and Ginger's offspring! They like to fly around his room and then sit together looking out the window. Activities Co-ordinator, **Tamara Jukes**



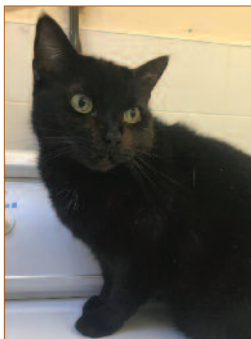
told us: "At Sunrise of Banstead, we have found that people who bring their pets with them when moving into our care make a smoother transition – having a pet with them makes them more approachable to other residents, who start to talk to them about their own animals, or those they used to have. Their pet not only provides love and companionship and makes them feel needed, but looking after them often helps to keep them mobile as well".



Sharon Birch, Court Manager at **Hayden Court**, a Housing and Care 21 complex in Norfolk, said: "It is very rewarding to manage a pet friendly court where residents can live with their beloved pets. An added bonus is the joy they bring to other residents who do not have pets of their own. Jani, the little dog in the photo with her owner, is a regular visitor to her elderly neighbour who loves to see her. Jani checks the flat to make sure all is well! We also have Lucca, a little Dachshund who doesn't really like to go out – his owner Diana takes him out in a special pet buggy, then he will walk back home ensuring he gets some exercise.



His friend Florence, a home loving cat, is waiting for him when he gets there. Other residents, again with no pets of their own, help to take Lucca out on occasion”.



Tiny

St Leonards Court, part of the Healthcare Homes group, is home to a beautiful black cat called Tiny, who was adopted as a house pet after her owner sadly passed away. Manager, **Shelley Jarred**, told us that Tiny loves to sleep in the laundry during the day. Then, at dusk, after going outside for five minutes, she makes her visits around the home to see everyone; she can also sometimes be found loitering outside the nearby fish and chip shop in case anyone is feeling generous! The residents love having a cuddle with her.



Tommy

Tommy the Spaniel also lives at the home and enjoys being made a fuss of by everyone. Staff member, **Suzanne Smith**, said: “Tommy is such a lovely, friendly dog. He moved in with his owner, Alfredo and they are the best of friends, but he brings lots of joy to all of our residents”.



If you would like a list of pet-friendly homes in your area, or if you know of a home or retirement housing scheme which accepts pets that's not already on our register, please call or email donnatucker@cinnamon.org.uk.



News from the Sanctuaries

Winter had a late, last, sub-zero temperature, snow and blizzards bite which we didn't appreciate one bit – apart from the dogs who just can't resist playing, chasing, tumbling in the snow. And why not when you have a blazing log fire, a cosy bed and a hot meal to come home to - it does make us smile!

The sadness at Poldarves came with the loss of **Sadie** (17) German Shepherd cross, **Barney** (16) Jack Russell, **Honey** (16) Shih Tzu, **Thomas** (18) Miniature Poodle, **Morse** (15) Collie/Labrador, **Gary** (19) tabby and white cat and **Anne**, one of our little squirrels. At Hillside we lost three gorgeous cats **Bennie** (17), **Aisha** (20) and **Holly** (17) along with **Abby** (14) Westie, **Dee** (13) Labrador, **Griff** (14) Jack Russell and **Leah** (13) Greyhound. All have left their paw prints on our hearts and memories to cherish.

Thankfully spring has now sprung. The tortoises have woken up safely, the cats are finding sun in the garden, the ponies are frisky, the geese are chatty, the squirrels deign to rise before midday and the ducks are happy the pond isn't frozen any more.

We were very happy to welcome **Bryher** to Poldarves, a sweet, gentle, happy girl who settled as if she'd always lived here and fell in love.... with Spud the Pug! Her tail spins like a windmill in a gale when she sees him and she just has to give him a kiss. Spud is nonchalant.... but comes back for more! And Bryher does like to check what's in the shopping bags – or anyone else's bag – she never fails to have a real good root around. She loves her walks, especially the beach, paddling in the sea and meeting new people and dogs. Bryher does like her routine and at 7:00pm (!!) it's time for her to play with her starfish (only her starfish). She does make us laugh! And if sausages could be on the menu everyday – bliss!



Bryher

Super (16) requires a doorman – she doesn't do cat flaps but lets us know when she wants to go out and when she wants to come in. She is absolutely fascinated by Peppa the pig and will watch her for hours on end as long as it's not raining, she even climbs up trees and onto the roof to get a better view. She growls rather than purrs and she wags her tail a lot – a most unusual cat! We weren't sure at first but her growl is very friendly, she headbutts us to show she's your friend and she'll eat anything – chicken, mackerel, beef skirt, she loves the menu. A huge character and darling girl.



Super

Dolly (14) is named after Dolly Pentreath of Mousehole, the last fluent speaker of the Cornish language. Her mum died just a day after Dolly came to Poldarves. She's adorable and she came with her own special saucer and she will only eat off that saucer and not if you're watching! She loves one on one cuddles and has a soft, gentle purr which so reflects how she is. Dolly will all but stand on her head for cream cheese. Oh, and enter or exit a door? It has to be a window....

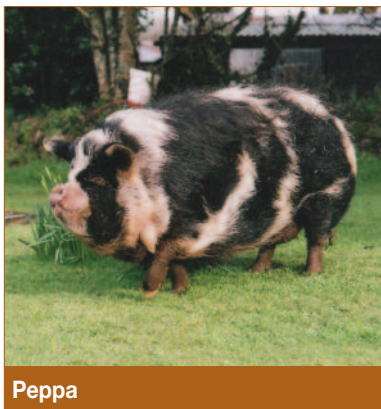


Dolly



Phoebe

Phoebe (18) is a very easy going girl who likes to check anyone coming in or going out – everyone gets the Phoebe once over! She also likes to check what you're making for breakfast, lunch and dinner and then she checks everyone else's dish – if they haven't got something better than she has, she returns to her dish and polishes it all off. Phoebe loves to be groomed and cuddled but don't be fooled – she can bat feathers around like a kitten!



Peppa

Peppa is the most friendly ever Kunekune pig. She used to live at a care home in Wales but when her friend, a goat, died she was very unhappy despite the attentions of staff and residents alike. So, as we encourage care homes to have pets, we said we'd have her (and couldn't wait, if the truth be known). Peppa loves everybody. She likes to join the dogs on a walk and now they've got used to her, they don't mind! Her real love, however, is James who tends our gardens and she's quite fruity with him. James has four of his own at home so he talks pig and enjoys her company. Peppa really, really loves a belly rub and a pig oil massage – she'll roll over at

the drop of a hat, so how can you resist? Favourite treats? Well, grapes and gingernut biscuits!



Ruff

Ruff (14) was very welcome at Hillside, such a handsome boy with lovely, lovely eyes. He's like a bobby on the beat patrolling the house and gardens and everything in between to make sure he doesn't miss anything! And so sweet, he 'makes' his bed, takes his time over it and is very particular about the end result – he does like his treats but they have to be taken back to bed to savour, so a bed isn't just for sleeping.... Ruff is looking forward to summer – he finds any sunny patch, inside or out, as soon as one appears and stays there 'til it's gone.

Amy (18) is another who loves the sunshine and is very quick to bag her 'patch'. She's very loving and affectionate and will soak up every bit of grooming, cuddling, stroking, tickling - it is useless to try and resist! Amy also loves the gardens, exploring generally and is very playful climbing and jumping the logs, all of which

serve to give her a great appetite, especially for fish - and fresh prawns are the crème de la crème of treats!

We all think we deserve a long, hot summer - paddling at the seaside or in the pool, picnics in the shade of a big tree, barbecues on the patio. Hazy, crazy, easy days of bliss!



Poetry Corner



Our first poem is quite lovely, sent in by **Ann Dobson** in Surrey, the author is unknown.

No Wonder He Wags His Tail

When God had made the earth and sky,
The flowers and the trees,
He then made all the animals
And all the birds and bees.

And when his work was finished
Not one was quite the same,
He said "I'll walk this earth of mine
And give each one a name".

And so he travelled land and sea
And everywhere He went
A little creature followed Him
Until it's strength was spent.

When all were named upon the earth
And in the sky and sea,
The little creature said "Dear Lord,
There's not one left for me".

The Father smiled and softly said
"I've left you to the end.
I've turned my own name back to front
And called you Dog, my friend".



And haven't we all felt like this sometimes? **Helen Bridgford** in Cheshire wrote this:

Penny

I have a little cat, who is very dear to me
But, alas, she will be twenty in 1993.

She is a little deaf and doesn't hear me call,
She is a little blind and she walks into the wall.

She walks about the house all day and will not go to sleep,
You'd think it would be tiring for her tiny white feet.

She cannot wash her milky mouth nor groom her silky fur,
So, to keep her pretty, I do these jobs for her.

She may not live 'til twenty three,
But, please, a bit more time with me.
"My lovely little cat".



And Finally

It's very special when you write to say how much you liked the newsletter, so I do hope you've enjoyed this one!

We've had what I can only describe as a very long, very cold, very proper (I suppose) winter, so collective thoughts and fingers crossed for a very long, nice and warm, very proper summer!

Good luck with all the incredible events you have planned, happy, sunny dog walking, fostering and caring for all who need and will need us.

God bless, everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

