
NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

Our stand at Crufts was almost as busy as ever despite coronavirus! It was great to welcome our Young Volunteer of the Year 2019, **Sylvia Sigfusdottir** from Sussex. She walks **Missy** for **Anita Brooks** who says that “our lives have



changed for the better because of her and I honestly don't know what we'd have done without her and The Cinnamon Trust, she spends hours each week to make sure we're ok.”

Ben Ashcroft, CEO of the Young Kennel Club, presented the award and Sylvia, a very worthy winner and a remarkable young volunteer says:

“I decided to join The Cinnamon Trust when I was 18 years old as I absolutely love dogs and I knew I could be using my spare time wisely by volunteering helping dogs and their owners. I have been fortunate enough to have walked so many delightful characters over the last 4 years and although I've only been walking Missy for three years now, I couldn't imagine my life without her. When I first started walking her, she was so strong on the lead and because of two previous dog attacks she's always been extremely nervous around other dogs. This made turning corners or walking past other dogs very nerve-wracking for the both of us as she would respond to her fear by barking and growling. However, she was so

extremely loving and affectionate that I couldn't imagine giving up on her and started working with her on these difficulties. Missy is the most affectionate towards human beings and she does the cutest 'happy feet' dance every time she sees a person and she even sulks if someone doesn't say hi to her! Thereafter, every walk we took, I tried several different techniques to find how best to reassure her to make her calm and feel safe even when other dogs are walking past us.

Because of this, Missy has progressed over the last few years from not being able to be on the same side of the road as another dog, barking and growling at them



to now being able to walk right past a dog without any reaction. I can see just how hard she has worked herself as I can still see the fear she sometimes has when she is near another dog, but she looks up at me for reassurance. By constantly reassuring her that she's a 'good girl' and giving her lots of positive attention, I can see that she now feels safe with me even when another dog is near. She even has two dogs that she can run around and play with which I never imagined would be possible. Now our walks are filled with trust, comfort, joy and excitement. Her favourite thing to do is chase after her ball and

we go out in the rain, wind, frost, or shine. But this opportunity hasn't just given me Missy as a companion, because I have now got a lovely friendship with her owner, Anita.

When I first met Anita, I noticed how she spent most of her time with Missy. As her only companion, I knew that keeping Missy healthy and happy on our walks was not just for her benefit, but also important so that Anita gets to keep her best friend around. Not only do I get to enjoy my walks with Missy, but when we get back from our walks I get to sit down and chat to Anita for hours. She is so kind and caring and she is always talking to me and teaching me about the many skills she has such as knitting, crocheting or gardening. I can tell just how much she appreciates me coming, not just because of Missy's sheer enjoyment of our walks, but also because of the valuable time we spend together. Every day that I am not at university I will spend with Anita and Missy, and during my holidays I will spend every day of the week with them because I truly appreciate their company. I find that sometimes university can be overwhelming or stressful, but it never fails to calm me down going out into the fresh air with Missy. Volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust has been exceptionally valuable, not only because I am getting to help a dog and their owner stay happily together, but also because I am using my time valuably by exercising and making new friends. Anita is no longer just a stranger whose dog I walk, nor is Missy just a random dog, they are both companions that I truly couldn't imagine my life without."

CT '100 Club

Our big winner who received £100 in December was **Alan Greenfield** (Gloucestershire). Other winners who have each received £25 are: Oct: **Daniel Rotheram** (South Yorkshire), Nov: **Patricia Yonwin** (Dorset), Jan: **Anna Cole** (Hampshire), Feb: **Jean Munson** (Glamorgan) and Mar: **Jan Collett** (Cheshire).



Fundraising Events

Maggie Martin (West Sussex) has been amazing again, and her team kept things running while she was away on holiday!

Jan Churchfield, Gay Holmes and **Val Conway** had a stall at Findon Village Dog Show. **Mike Solomons** opened his

home and garden once again for his ever-popular Cream Tea.

The Christmas Fair was a great success as always and altogether a fantastic £2,389 was raised. **Pat Ivey**

(Somerset) and members of a local Weight Watchers group raised £142 at their meetings.

Francesca Byrne and the congregation of **All Saints' Church** (West Sussex) held raffles at their film club get-togethers and raised £40. **Sylvia**

Care and committee of **Sennen Market** (Cornwall) are non-profit making and sent us the funds they

had in hand of £250. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £178.64 from the sale of her lovely handmade cards, a stall and flower demonstrations. **Angela**

Harris, Jackie Gordon and **Diane Croxford** (East

Sussex) had a stall at Bishopstone Fête and raised £196. **Susan Dunnett**

(Warwickshire) teaches bridge and raised £387.50

donations in lieu of charging a tuition fee. **Pat Whyte** and

the members of **Barwick All Saints Church Ladies**

Group (West Yorkshire) enjoyed a lovely coffee morning and raised £200.

Caroline Hendra (Lancashire) had a stall at the Green Fayre and fun Dog Show and raised £185. **Janette Dawson** (Cornwall) raised £74 with a BBQ in her

garden, complete with live music! **Daphne Devonshire** (Devon) held sales and raised a terrific £1,000. **Suzanne Turrell** (Norfolk) raised £50 at a carboot sale.



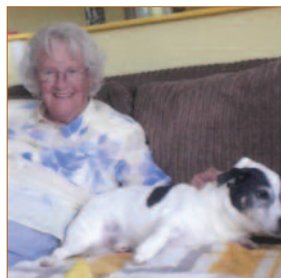
Evie, Gay's dog at a Maggie Martin event



Jan Churchfield and Val Conway at a Maggie Martin event



Caroline Hendra with the Deputy Mayor of West Lancs and his consort



Daphne Devonshire on a visit to Hillside Sanctuary



Janet Morgan's canal trip birthday and Animals R Magic stall



Another carboot! **Denise Chandler** (Hampshire) raised £17.50 by selling hand-knitted blankets. **Daphne Knapp** (Isle of Wight) celebrated her birthday and raised £20.



Janet Morgan's canal trip. L-R, Heather Martin, Zena Schtyk, Jean Wesley, Chas Wesley, Pamela Chadaway, Kevin Leneghan, Pamela Jameson, Suzanne Caine, Jenny Bull

Janet Morgan (Worcestershire) has been very busy again, raising £1,410 on her stalls at Animals R Magic, Bromsgrove Court Fair Day, Webb's Garden Centre and Worcester Dog Training Club's Championship Obedience show, along with canal trips held to help celebrate her birthday and a stall at Bournheath Village Christmas Fair. Help came from **Pamela Jameson, Heather Martin, Wendy Ralphs, Cathy McLeod, Pamela Chadaway,**



Juniper

Jayne & Ian Walker, Jean & Chas Wesley, Suzanne Caine, Jean Smith, Anita Thornton, Kevin Leneghan, Linda Jackson, Lynda Matthews, Julie Draper, Rebecca Gould and Zena Schtyk. **Caroline Hughes** (Lincolnshire) raised £50 by selling a baby's play quilt she'd made. **Colin and Heather Stepney** (Dorset) raised £430 with a lovely Garden Party and plant sale with their friend, **Donna**; young Trust supporter, **Juniper**, loves our jute bags! **Kate Doherty** (Gloucestershire) celebrated 15 years as a dog groomer by holding a fun day and raised a terrific £1,148. **Suzanne Russell** gave a presentation to **The Rotary Club of Glasgow** on our work and was presented



Liz Jeanmaire at Henton Summer Fête

with a cheque for a fantastic £1,140, her husband **George** is the Club's Secretary. The team at **Scarsdale Vets** (Nottinghamshire) raised £42 with their raffle. **Liz Jeanmaire** (Somerset) ran the dog show at Henton Summer Fête and nominated us to receive the £350 proceeds of the raffle. **Shirley Gunter** (Somerset) raised £92.60 at her coffee morning. **Wendy Oliver** (Devon) and her neighbours enjoyed a lovely get-together and cream tea and raised £80 with their raffle. **Mel Polglase** (Cornwall)

raised £15 by holding a collection during a round of golf. **Gail Everett** along with **Mark and Georgina Curgenvin** (Somerset) organised the ever-popular **Dunster**

Beach Holidays Dog Show and raised £260. **Maggie Forbes-Buckingham** (Dorset) held a collection at the Sherborne branch of Waitrose, and had a stall at Sherborne Christmas Shopping Day, to raise £255. **Karen Dowens** and residents of **Hanover Court** (County Durham) raised £71 with their coffee morning. **Samantha MacDonald** and the team at **Willows Veterinary Centre and Referral Service** (West Midlands) chose to include us in their token scheme and raised £250. **Diane** and **Peter Davis** (Surrey) raised a terrific £880 with their annual garden party. **Jean Weary** (Cornwall) had a stall at the Penzance Pet Alliance event and raised £59.62. **Edmund Shillabeer** (Devon) raised a brilliant £977.53 for us with a collection, taking part in a 100 mile walk and a talk about our work. **Monica Stagg** (South Yorkshire) took part in a marathon walk over the Spring Bank Holiday and raised £205. **Michele Brusey** (Devon) helped **Yelverton Rotary Dog Club** organise a Family Dog Show. This included a car boot sale, tombola, raffle and refreshments, everyone had a great time and they raised £285. **Gill Duroe** (Northamptonshire) had a stall at **Letchworth Agility Club's** three-day show and raised £432 – **Marlene Freeman** provided her ever-popular fingerless mitts for sale and **Gary Murphy** (one of the judges) donated his judge's expenses. **Linda Curry** (Dorset) and her husband held a joint party to celebrate their 70th birthdays and raised £170. **Jan Ouvry** (Hampshire) had a stall at **Suella Braverman MP's** Senior Citizen Fair and raised £7.82. **Michaela Simmonds** and the team at **Chine House Veterinary Hospital** (Leicestershire) undertook the 3 Peaks Challenge, climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours. A gruelling trek, one staff member suffered a broken ankle on Ben Nevis and another suffered ligament damage to her leg! They raised a stupendous £3,626.97! **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) raised £270 by selling her scrummy home-made dog biscuits at



Maggie Forbes-Buckingham and friends



Edmund Shillabeer



Michele Brusey



Chine House Veterinary Hospital



Jan Ouvry and Suella Braverman MP



Lorraine Hawkins at Arnos Park Dog Show

a Scarecrow Weekend. **Lorraine Hawkins** and **Andrew Orr** (London) raised £150 on their stall at the Arnos Park Dog Show. Lorraine also had a stall at St Johns's Christmas Fair (featuring a Teddy Bear Zip Wire!) and raised £202. **The Rotary Club of Maldon** (Essex) held their popular annual Mud Race, our volunteer, **Martin Reed**, was involved in the overall running of the event and the Club wished to express their thanks with a donation to a charity of Martin's choosing, and we received a fantastic £1,000. **Brenda Riches** (Essex) and the members of ladies' rowing team, **The Basin**

Brenda Riches Oars and Paws show



Some of the contestants



Alison Wheeler on the stall



And best in show, Magic



Alison Wheeler

Oars, held a terrific dog show they named 'Oars and Paws' and raised £500. **Alison Wheeler** (Essex) raised £226.90 on her stalls. **Jane Leaworthy** and the congregation of **Little Totham Church** (Essex) enjoyed their lovely annual dog service and raised £50. **Jan Smith** (Lincolnshire) celebrated a special birthday with a party and raised £172 in lieu of gifts. **Carl Drinkwater** (West Midlands) raised £222.49 from his friends' and family's recycling efforts. **Carolyn Morris** (Cornwall) sold books at her door to raise £115. **Louise Richards** (Cornwall) and the residents of Porthallow raised £326.79 at their Scarecrow Festival. **Grangewood Ladies' Fellowship** (Nottinghamshire) raised £20 from birthday card sales. **Melanie Harris** (West Sussex) raised £50 on her stall at Wick Festival of Pets. **Glenda Clark** (Northamptonshire) raised £510 with a lovely afternoon tea enjoyed in fabulous weather. **Christine Crewe** (Surrey) with help from **Val Makda**, **Molly Bridges** and **Susan Dalton** held another successful



Val Makda and Christine Crewe

collection at Asda, Burgh Heath, Christine and Val also had a stall at the Diamond Autumn Fair to raise a total of £393.34. **Keiran Whitbread** (Somerset), one of our young volunteers taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, had a stall at a local spiritual fair and raised £47. **Emma Breadin** and the team at **It's The**

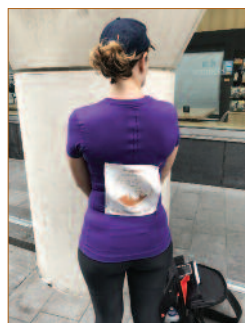
Vets (Devon) raised £310 at their Open Day which included a raffle, talks and a fun dog show. **Roz Kennedy** and everyone at **Thrapston Town Council** (Northamptonshire) chose us as one of their charities for 2019 and raised £768.90 with their donations for poo bags! Great idea! **Sarah Shaw** (West Midlands) raised a stonking £1,777.50 by taking part in the Great Midlands Fun Run - wow! Another run – **Naomi Smart** (Greater Manchester) took part in the Manchester 10K to raise £160. And another! **Natalie Sedgley** (Greater Manchester) raised £190 by taking part in the Great North Run. **Kate Hamilton** (Gloucestershire) and her friend **Linda** raised £130 with tarot, astrology readings and spirit pictures. **Claire Liddiard** (Essex) of Polite Pooches dog behaviour consultancy raised £20. **Wendy Garland** (North Somerset) raised £40 on her stall at **Green Pastures Vets'** fundraising day. **Maggie Evans** (North Somerset) raised £229 on her stall at Holly



Keiran Whitbread



Naomi Smart



Hedge Animal Sanctuary which also featured a fun bingo game where entrants had to guess the number of pets we helped during the year. What a great idea! (it was 155,256). **Joanna Van Aalten** and the team at **Broomhill Veterinary Practice** (South Yorkshire) enjoyed their annual fun day and raised £200. **Abbey House Veterinary Clinic** (West Yorkshire) raised £285 with a 4 mile Charity Dog Walk at RSPB Fairburn Ings. **Hilary Knight** (Hampshire) took part in the Great South Run and raised £277. **Elizabeth Corney** (Cornwall) raised £140 with her charity card games. **Pam Stevens** (Flintshire) raised £120 with sales at her 'pop-up' shop. **Mandy Cheek** (Cheshire) raised £87.47 on her stall at Etruria boat festival and with her collection tin. **Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust** (Lancashire) allocate money to their staff to present as a team to a charity of their choice.

The Guildford Branch chose us, and we received a brilliant £900. **Maggie Nylk** (Norfolk) raised £200 on her very delicious cake stall. **Anne Saint**



Maggie Evans's stall



Abbey House Veterinary Clinic



L-R, Liz Prosser, Carol O'Sullivan at Connie Taylor's Craft Fayre

(Gwent) raised £65 with her home-grown wisteria cuttings. **Connie Taylor** (Hertfordshire) held a Christmas Craft Fayre, volunteers **Carol O'Sullivan** and **Liz Prosser** went along to help and they raised £185. **Karen Grant's** singing group, Songways (Wiltshire) made donations for their weekly refreshments and raised £90. **Patricia Davis** (Leicestershire) and her colleagues held a dress down day and raised £94. **Judith Dranfield** (Cornwall) with help from **Laura** and **Annie**, raised £177.30 by selling her wonderful plants and apples at her garden wall. **Helen Marshall** (Hampshire) and the team at **The Squirrel** raised £308.15 with their ever-popular dog show and some great quiz nights. **Sue Phillips** (Clywd) along with **Liz Stott**, **Jean**

Atkinson and **Zoe Temple**, had a stall at Dog Fest (held in beautiful Bodnant Garden) and raised £70. The volunteers at **The Crossing Charity Shop** (Nottinghamshire) raised £125. **Margy Maitland-Webb** (Cornwall) ran a tombola at Tretherras School and raised £208, unsurprisingly, the sweets she had on offer were a great hit! **Jo Watson** and the team at **Purple Vet** (West Yorkshire) raised £200 with their Christmas tombola. **Janet Mundy** and everyone at **Crowborough Community Plus** (East Sussex) enjoyed a session of Chi Gong with **Anita Wilmowksi** and raised £35. **Christine Battison** (Hampshire) raised £30 with sales of her very witty book 'Long Tails and Natural Breaks'. **Martin Gill** (Worcestershire) has a bridge syndicate where the clubs play each other and pay a fee, which is then given to the chosen charity for the year. We were the choice for 2019 and we have received a fantastic £561. **Julia Cardale** (Dorset) raised £86 with her Christmas raffle. **Nicola Adams** (Northamptonshire) raised £300 at a Christmas bazaar. **Erica Reid** (Surrey) raised £40 with a small Carol Service. **Lynda Mersh** (East Sussex) raised £55 with the internal betting she enjoys with her husband, **Richard**. **Mandy Graves** (West Yorkshire) raised £70 on her Christmas stall. **Jean Langridge** (Kent) raised £40 at Blackham Christmas Market with the sale of her lovely handmade Christmas decorations. **Megan Qua** (Somerset) works for HSBC. They have again matched the time she spent



Hilary Richardson and colleagues

volunteering for us with a donation and we have received a terrific £1,000. **Hilary Richardson** (Cheshire) and her colleagues at **Salford Royal Hospital** raised £65 with a Christmas jumper day. **Judy Westacott** (Devon) raised £250 on her very popular Elizabethan Market stall. **Liz Veasey** (Nottinghamshire) raised £40 with sales of her lovely hand-crafted Christmas wreaths. **Huguette Savoie** (East Yorkshire) raised £136 with her 'Cake Club' in the Department of

Chemistry at Hull University. **Peter** and **Vicky Daley** (Cumbria) raised a terrific £425 by looking after their friends' dogs. **Diane Fraser** and the members of **The Friday Ladies' Dog Walking Club** (Cambridgeshire) raised £42 at their Christmas lunch. **Lynn Denby** (Gloucestershire) works for **Ecclesiastical Insurance** who offer a donation to employees for the charity of their choice. Lynn chose us, and we received £125. **Florence Croucher** (Somerset) raised £260 with the sale of her delicious garden produce and preserves, as well as friends' sweet peas. **Margaret Scott** (Northamptonshire) raised a fantastic £455 with a cat jumble and her collection box. **Paul Rayner** and the team at **Canley Cemetery and Crematorium** (West Midlands) raised the most incredible £8,000 by taking part in the national metals recycling scheme. **Brinny Lister** (Oxfordshire) raised £100 with cat feeding and dog walking. **Mark Collins** (Lincolnshire) and his husband **Darren** requested donations in lieu of gifts at their recent wedding and raised a wonderful £670. Many congratulations to you both! **Christine Lawn** and **The Lupset Park Group** (West Yorkshire) raised £294 with their fundraising efforts between May and December. **Brook Dog Training Club** (East Sussex) raised £200 with the raffles at their summer and Christmas parties. **Wirksworth Area Dog Training Club** (Derbyshire) have sadly had to close, the committee chose us to receive some of their remaining funds, a wonderful £991.83. **Snoopy Dog Training Club** (Hertfordshire), now sadly closed, sent us £500. **The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club** (Lincolnshire) raised £458.98 at their rally weekend. Everyone had a fantastic time with gundog training, fun dog show and even an afternoon tea party! **The St Briavels Group of the Avon Working Trials Training Society** raised £100. **Elvenholme Dog Training Club** (West Sussex) raised £35 with their summer raffle. The **Welsh Corgi Rescue Service** (Somerset) sent us a fantastic £3,000. **Clacton & District Dog Training Club** sent us £150. **Exeter & County Canine Society** raised £81 at their stakes classes held at their March and September Open Shows. **Severn & Avon Working Gundog Club** raised £150 during their summer training sessions. **South Bucks Agility Club** raised £100 at their show. **Chippenham & District Canine Society** raised £90.17 with their companion show, raffle and kitchen sales. **Redruth Dog Training Club**, now sadly closed, sent us £568. **Hastings & St Leonards Dog Training Club** raised £481.65 with their fun evening and down stay. **The Whippet Club** (Derbyshire) sent us £100. **Skernedale Dog Training Club** (County Durham) have sadly had to close. They chose us to receive some of their remaining funds, a terrific £1,000. **Plymouth Dog Training Club** raised £300 at their Dogs' Christmas Party. **Kennet Valley Gundog Training Society** (Surrey) raised £100 from the sale of tea, coffee and cake at their working tests. **Littlehampton Dog Training Club** chose us as their Charity of the Year once more and sent us £1,000 –



Littlehampton DTC with Maggie Martin



Bowow DTC and Linda Collins
(volunteer co-ordinaor)

fantastic! **Bowow Dog Training Club** (Cornwall) sent us £372.50. **Alpha Dog Training Club** (London) sent us a brilliant £750. **Enfield Chace Dog Training Club** (Middlesex) raised an amazing £1,800. **Gainsborough & District Dog Training Club** raised £34 with their raffle at their Christmas party. **Cheltenham & District Dog Training Club** raised £50 with the sale of tuggies and tennis balls. **Ribble Dog Agility Club** (Lancashire) raised £250.

Thank you so much to you all for your wonderful efforts, huge energy – especially the runners – and the hours and hours you've spent plotting, planning, training, cooking, planting, brewing and so much more! You've bought coats for dogs, ponies and horses, new washing machines and tumble driers, helped with the very necessary but huge expense of draining the sodden clay at Hillside. You've bought treats and toys, alternative remedies and scrumptious breakfasts, lunches and dinners. And, you've helped with the vets' bills which came to over £900,000 last year, so please keep it up!!



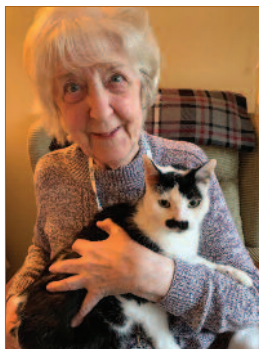
Pet Friendly Care Homes

Here are some stories from the Pet Friendly Care Homes and Retirement Estates on our register....

Gorselands Nursing Home in Ringwood, Hampshire, is home to many pets, including **Jarvis** who is a very loveable 7-year-old Labrador/Retriever cross, a cockatiel, and two budgies who live here with their owners, as well as cat **Mitzi** who was kept on by the home when her owner sadly passed away, and has since



Jarvis the superhero



Mavis with Mitzi

adopted another resident as hers! Jarvis and Mitzi have the freedom to roam wherever they like within the home and gardens (although they both know they're not allowed in the kitchen), and Jarvis has been permanently banned from the dining room in a bid to control his waistline! When Jarvis first came to Gorselands, he kept escaping to a neighbour's large fish pond where he would be found swimming

amongst their Koi Carp! Perhaps unsurprisingly, the neighbour was not too happy about this, so the home has built Jarvis his own little pond, where he can cool off when the weather gets hot!

Wendy, who owns the budgies, told us “**Pebbles and Pixie** give me constant company and enjoyment throughout my day – they are my family”, while **Florrie**, pictured with her cockatiel, said “It was very important for me to keep my cockatiel with me, as he was the only yellow one I had, out of 8 cockatiels at home. I love talking to him.”



Pebbles and Pixie



Florrie with her cockatiel

Mavis is unable to say how she feels about Mitzi, but it is clear from the way she interacts with her that she means the world to her. Director, **Mark Gibbs**, said “Nobody wants to give up their home to come to a nursing home - it is a necessity, but the worst situation is that someone also has to give up their beloved pet. Gorselands has always welcomed well-behaved pets.”



Emma the Golden Retriever, **Honey** the Shih Tzu cross, **Millie** the Corgi and **Suzie** the Jack Russell, are just some of the pets who are enjoying life at **Sunrise of Tettenhall** care home in Wolverhampton. The four dogs all live here with their owners, and each of them have their own team of Cinnamon Trust volunteers who take them for regular walks. Honey's owner, **Beryl Hawkins**, told us “Having Honey with me each day is like having my best friend with me.”

Rosie the cat also lives here with her owner, and would be welcome to have the run of the home, but at the grand old age of 19, she chooses to spend her time in her owner's room, where she can usually be found curled up on the bed. Bantam chicks, **Luna** and **Hermione**, were hatched from eggs that the home incubated, and now enjoy being fussed over by residents in their pen in the garden. **Mitzee** the house rabbit spends her days in the lounge, often sitting on residents' laps for a cuddle, and then every evening, after the resident dogs have gone to bed, it's her turn to run free. Activities co-ordinator, **Geraldine Bunning**, told us, “Pets play a vital role in offering residents company and



Doreen with Suzie, Eileen with Community dog, Gracie and Beryl with Honey



Eileen with her dog, Emma

often become the main focus of a resident's stay at Sunrise – filling their day with an additional purpose. Having their own dogs with them gives the confidence to encourage communication between residents and a greater feeling of fulfilment."



Fielder's Court, in Alton, Hampshire, is an independent living estate owned by Anchor Hanover, and is home to **Bridget** and **Pearl**, pictured here with their beloved dogs, **Freddie** and **Maisy**. Pearl told us "animals have always been a big part of my life, having been a farmer's wife helping to care for a herd of dairy cows in my previous life. Ok, so I have downsized a little with Maisy! Quite frankly, I don't think I would still be here without Maisy; she is my constant companion – she likes nothing better than going into the local hotel, where she is spoilt rotten by the staff!" Bridget is Cornish and lived close to The Cinnamon Trust

Headquarters in Hayle, Cornwall for most of her life, so has known about The Trust since it was first established. She has always had dogs, but had just lost her last one when she made the move to Alton to be closer to her family. With the Estate Manager's blessing she adopted Freddie, a long-haired Chihuahua, last year and they have transformed each other's lives. He now looks the picture of health with a beautiful coat and is full of energy – still absolutely minute, of course, (but he doesn't know that!), and with him Bridget has been able to get out and about explore the area and make friends in her new community. Anchor Hanover Estate Manager, **Michaela Canning**, said "I can see it means so much to pet owners to not only be able to bring their pets with them when they come to live here, but also they can have another one, should they sadly lose their pet at some point. I am proud to work for a company that are so pet friendly."



Don't forget to visit the Pet Friendly Care Home section on our website, where you'll find an interactive map which pinpoints the homes and independent living retirement accommodation that are on our register. If you click on the pins, it shows you the contact details for the site and a brief description of our findings of how pet friendly they were when we last visited them.

Alternatively, if you would like a list of pet friendly care homes or retirement estates for your county, we can send these to you by email or post – please call Donna or Sue at Head Office (01736 757900), or email donnatucker@cinnamon.org.uk.



Our vet nurses, **Emma** and **Sarah**, are having great success with alternative remedies, here are a few of them....

Buddy is a 13 year old Jack Russell Terrier. He had a marvellous time scampering on a long walk, but once home his legs were stiff and sore, and he was limping on his foreleg. Like many dogs his age, he has a degree of arthritis. He was started on a long-term joint-support supplement (Yumove) to help with the chronic pain of his arthritis, and the homeopathic remedy A.R.R (Arnica, Ruta Grav, Rhus Tox) for the acute pain in his foreleg. The next day, Buddy was feeling much better and no longer limping!

Oska is a 14 year old Shih Tzu. Like lots of older dogs, he had many warts, most of which weren't causing a problem, but a particular one on his foot was irritating him. Because he has multiple health issues, including a significant heart condition, an anaesthetic and surgery was to be avoided if possible. Oska was given the homeopathic remedy Thuja. After two weeks, several warts have dropped off, and the one on his foot has started to detach. He is due another dose, but it is looking very likely that this wart will also drop off soon.

Pippin is a 13 year old Jack Russell Terrier. At some point in his life he lost a toe nail, which never grew back. Lately it's been rather itchy and sore, and little Pip couldn't help himself but to lick and chew at it. Despite bathing, pain relief, antibiotics and an Elizabethan collar, as soon as it looked like it was better, he'd be chomping away at it again. It was advised that amputation might be necessary as he wasn't responding to treatment. We didn't much like that idea so he was started on daily washes made from dried calendula flowers, and a healing ointment that includes calendula, myrrh and honey (Phytobalm). We are pleased to report that Pippin responded very well, and no longer wants to lick or chew his toe!



Volunteer Views

To Gloucester for our first view from **Shellie Spilsbury**....

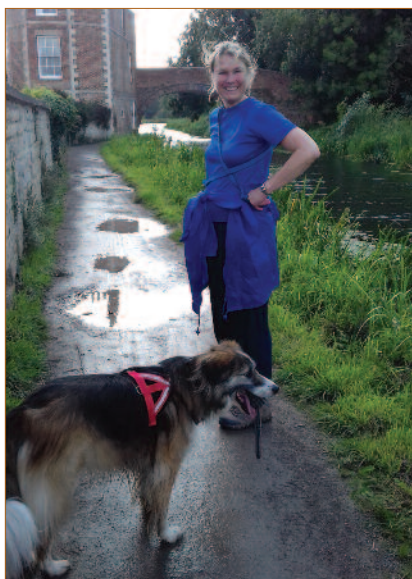
"I try to walk several little doggies for The Cinnamon Trust a few times a week, shifts allowing. Sometimes I go with fellow volunteer Hayley Martin and together we walk Suki affectionately known to us as 'Suki Sausage'. Suki's owner, Eric, always greets us with a smile and has Suki ready to go with collar and lead on. Suki will drag us to the nearest park and then, because Eric says that she is fine off the lead and has good recall, Suki is set free running round and round the park, snuffling in the hedgerow, losing her ball as she goes. Suki has now got used to a harness, which Eric is happy about, it suits her much better as she does pull a



Suki



Rory



Luca

bit so us arriving out of breath is now a thing of the past!

We spend a few hours giggling at Suki, she doesn't walk anywhere, and instead she races around with her ears flapping in the wind. She has her favourite trees, where she will sit and wait until we catch up. She sees all her doggie friends, two of her best friends are Milton, who has hardly any teeth, and Mac who has a little beard. When we stop to chat to their owners, Suki is not averse to gently reminding us that it is her walk. So, she bounces up and down like Tigger saying "Come on...stop chatting - I need to play!" When we return little Suki to Eric we always have a cup of tea and Hayley relates Suki's escapades.

My next dog is Rory who lives close by. He is very regal in appearance and never without an admirer commenting "isn't he handsome!" Rory was quite a timid dog when he started to go out but over the months he has grown more courageous. He has a super long line which is 30ft in length so he can run around to his heart's content although the line is never fully extended. Rory is a very passive dog with a lovely nature, he approaches other dogs, has a sniff and totters off to carry on his way. His owner, John, has also grown in confidence and we now chat about his week as well as making sure the doggie bowls are full of water when we leave and asking if he needs a cuppa or anything.

The newest doggie to be walked is Luca, a very intelligent dog that loves his ball. He will quite literally run after his ball as long as you keep throwing it. He has a harness which is used to walk him down the road and then, as soon as we get into the park and then into the woods, he is off. Luca is never far away from me, preferring to walk by my side or a metre in front of me, turning his head to make sure I am

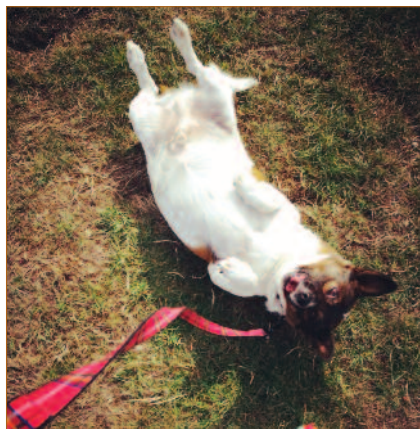
close by... or more likely he is looking for his ball, I am really not sure. Luca loves to get to the open field and then run to the bottom near the hedgerow and wait for me to arrive before we totter off. Luca is a joy to walk, so easy and so placid. I always have plenty of water on board with Luca, it is thirsty work playing chase the ball for so long. When it is time to go back to owner Anne, I always remind her how wonderful he is and what a great job she has done in training him. Sometimes, I take pictures of him on the walk and then show her so that she doesn't feel that she is missing out.

Both Hayley and I adore walking all these doggies – we go both separately and together. If it were not for The Cinnamon Trust, we would not be able to get a doggie fix. We are both so grateful to their owners for letting us walk their precious little furry companions.”



Angela Hindle writes from Wiltshire:

“It has been my pleasure to walk Mrs Croft's dog, Tuppence, once a week since September last year. Cherry needed some extra help, as she is unable to walk Tuppence due to ill health.



Tuppence is very short little man, with a low under carriage, he is a Jack Russell/Corgi type cross, he has ears like Yoda, and a very waggy tail. He has a way of looking up at me when I talk to him like a wise sage as if he understands every word. I think there may be some greyhound in there too, as he takes off like a rocket when we start our walks and when he knows he is on the way home to Cherry.

He is a proper character, known by all the shops and locals in the old railway district of town. Tuppence lingers by the butchers, gives the pub a good sniffing, is known at the pharmacy and licks the Tandoori takeaway walls without fail every week, very exotic tastes! While we were walking last week down one of the many alleyways, a small van pulled up beside me and a cheery fellow poked his head out of the van window and said “Hiya Tuppence!” It turns out that he and his huge dog are amongst Tuppence's many fans. It's like walking around with a celebrity!

Although I have lived in the same town as Cherry for many years, I didn't know Cherry's part of town well at all, and I have learnt so much about the history of the

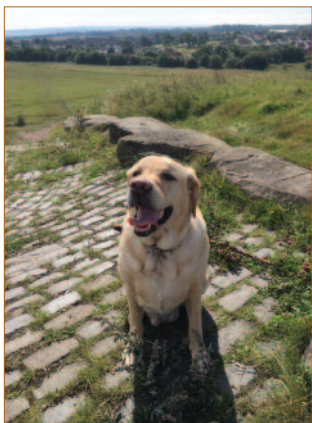
town – it's been an added bonus. I'm also used to walking my dogs in rural areas; Tuppence is an urban walker so that's been educational.

The bond the two of them have is remarkably strong. Just before Christmas, Cherry wasn't well and, although Tuppence was happy enough to go on his walk with his usual enthusiasm, as soon as he completed his business he turned round and pulled for home. I am sure he knew how poorly Cherry was that day.

It's such a pleasure to see Cherry no matter what sort of week she has had or how unwell she is feeling. I am greeted every week with a wonderful smile and cheerful chatter and she is unfailingly grateful that Tuppence gets to go on his walk."



And this from **Michelle Jopling** in Tyne and Wear:



"When I think back to what I did on weekends before September 2015, I really can't remember! This is the month and year I first met the handsome Jack. I remember The Cinnamon Trust contacting me to ask if I would be available to walk a yellow Labrador who lived about 20 minutes away from me. I jumped at the chance because Labradors are my favourite! Upon meeting Jack for the first time I knew that we were going to have some great walks together! Jack was a little overweight when I first started walking him but with my walks on a weekend, and another dog walker walking him during the week, he started to slim down quite a lot!

I always look forward to my weekends knowing that Jack is expecting me and knowing that we are going to have a lovely time! When my Dad drops me off at Jack's house on a morning, Jack is always waiting at the window, and upon seeing us he jumps up and starts to bark! As soon as the front door is open he comes running out, jumping all over the place as if to say "You're here! - at last! - let's go!" Jack loves to be outdoors and the fields where I walk him are a great place to let him run and burn off some calories! We have spent a lot of time just sitting on the grass in the sunshine, talking about nonsense (Jack just looks at me like I'm crazy at times like this!) and taking in the lovely scenery (although he doesn't like to sit still for too long!). Jack loves water and puddles – especially muddy puddles! As soon as he sees one he runs towards it, jumps in it and gets soaking wet! If it's a dirty puddle, he doesn't care; he'll still run into it and get covered in dirt! I have many photos of him with his tummy covered in dirt as well as his face, and he just looks at me as if to say "I'm dirty am I? And? I don't care! I'm having fun!"

He is always smiling and it's never a dull moment when I'm with him! He makes me smile too and after a tough week at work his face never fails to cheer me up! Without him, my weekends would be dull and boring, and it's all thanks to The Cinnamon Trust who asked me to walk him four years ago! I have always loved dogs, but have been unable to get one of my own due to working full-time.

One day back in the summer of 2015, I was just sitting around not doing much so decided to look into volunteering as a dog walker. I went online and searched for dog walking jobs. I found a website called 'do-it.org' and typed in 'dog walkers'. The Cinnamon Trust popped up and I decided to register. From there, the rest is history! It was a quick and easy process and when I think back now, I am so glad that it was this Trust that I signed up with! From volunteering I have gained friends for life in Jack and his owner, Iris. We all get on so well and I would be lost if I didn't have Jack to see and walk on a weekend! Iris is a lovely lady and clearly loves Jack. She is often telling me stories about him i.e. when he snuggles with her in bed but can't find his teddy so he's up and down looking for it, or when he is just keeping an eye on her on the sofa they share together! She is very appreciative and thankful to me and always says "thank you" when I take him out. She is very accommodating too, especially when I have a day or two off work and I call her to ask if I can take Jack out for a mid-week walk; she always says yes.

I am so grateful and thankful to The Cinnamon Trust for bringing Jack into my life. He is a joy to be around and I hope that I am able to walk him for years to come! I have recommended The Trust to a few of my friends and will continue to do so when anyone asks about volunteering. Walking Jack has made me a happier person and I would definitely recommend becoming a volunteer dog walker to anyone! The love, appreciation and smiles you get off the dog you're walking are priceless and I wouldn't change my weekends for anything!"



Daniel Haig sends this from Kent:

"My name is Daniel and I am 13 years old.

My mum is a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust, and together we walk a lovely 9 year old Staffie called Rosie twice a week. I have gone on every walk with Rosie, as she's really friendly, fun and very soppy.

Rosie really enjoys going to the local park and meeting other dogs and seeing the squirrels! In better weather, we walk along a river near her home. We have had lots of lovely days out with her.

She's not too bothered about chasing balls or sticks, but loves to sniff and run around.



Rosie wags her tail A LOT but strangely doesn't bark at all! She is very good on the lead and such a friendly girl who loves a cuddle.

We don't have a pet dog at home - so being able to take Rosie on walks whilst also helping out her owner means a lot to me."

And Rosie's owner **Catherine Cotton** says:

"I don't know what I would do without Daniel, his mum Deborah and The Cinnamon Trust. Daniel is such an amazing young man and such a credit to his mum. They have not missed a walk with Rosie, which is a good thing, as Rosie seems to know when they are coming and gets all excited just before they

turn up. I asked Deborah about Daniel and how he felt about helping someone who was so ill and she said she had sat down him down and explained how poorly I was and the fact that I was terminally ill. Daniel's reply was "well, I think we need to help even so!" All of our volunteers are such a blessing and it's clear they love Rosie as much as she loves them. I never worry when Rosie is out because I know she will be very well cared for and spoilt.

It is such a relief to know The Cinnamon Trust are only a phone call away. I am terminally ill and I have made arrangements with The Trust to make sure that Rosie and the cats, Barnaby and Daisy, will be ok when I am no longer here. It has given me such peace of mind to know that when the time comes The Trust will look after them and keep them together as a family. Barnaby and Rosie sleep tucked in together. I have the emergency cards in my purse and have displayed the larger ones on my cabinet so, in a medical emergency, they know who to call.

I was so worried about rescuing a Staffie due to their reputation, but Rosie is a dream and such a soft girl. It means so much to know that she won't ever need to go back into kennels again and will always have a loving home to live in with all of The Cinnamon Trust's amazing support."



From Manchester, **Michael Guariento** writes:

"Disillusioned with my day-to-day desk job, in 2019 I decided to take an unpaid 12-month sabbatical during which time I would work as a volunteer for various

charities in the Manchester area.

My schedule so far has been hugely busy and varied, and I have found myself working in museums and kitchens and helping refugees and the homeless. I had really wanted to work with animals as well, but one morning spent mucking out rabbit hutches for a local animal charity reminded me I still had my crippling allergies to contend with. The Cinnamon Trust sounded perfect; I would get to care for animals, and get some exercise in as well. And better still, there would be no straw playing havoc with my asthma.



I was quickly put in touch with the owner of a 7 year old Labrador called Max. Pauline had taken a bad fall and broken her arm which left her unable to walk him. With no nearby family or friends with the spare time to regularly walk him, Max spent most of his days sitting in the garden.

He would wake in the middle of the night and bark in frustration at not being able to stretch his legs and sniff the neighbourhood. Our first couple of walks caused him to constantly pant with exhaustion.

Thankfully, Max still had plenty of determination and his love for the great outdoors hadn't waned. We would wander the local park and Max would explore the hedgerows and copses with great interest. He immediately perked up and his physique and demeanour changed dramatically. His fitness levels rose and we'd even go for runs in the park. Also, he was sleeping peacefully for the first time in ages. He was no longer frustrated or anxious, and it showed.

Max always gives me a warm welcome when I arrive, patting my chest with his paws and whacking my legs with his wagging tail. At the start of our relationship, he would get so excited about his walks he would grab the lead from me as if he was the one taking me for a walk. Whenever Pauline mentions my name on the phone, he jumps up expecting to see me pop up with a lead in my hand. He's quite well-known in the neighbourhood as well, and occasionally Pauline's neighbours will call to Max and say how lovely it is to see him out again.

Speaking as someone who has never been a dog owner, I've learned an awful lot about dogs and it's been so much fun developing my relationship with Max. I was admittedly a bit nervous at the start because my dog-handling experience was minimal, and Max sounded like a big guy! But his personality was so affable and fun that we got on like a house on fire right from the start.

Out of all of my experiences as a volunteer this year, I'd say The Cinnamon Trust has been the most enjoyable and rewarding. I'm really happy that Pauline has put so much trust in me to help them both. It's a very warm feeling helping a dog as lovely as Max get the exercise he so desperately needs!"



Charlotte Smith was shortlisted for Young Volunteer of the Year. She sends a great view from Warwickshire:



Oscar

"I've been walking for The Cinnamon Trust for around 3 or 4 years now, and have walked 4 dogs for 4 owners in that time. I currently walk Oscar, a Yorkie, twice a week after work and William, a Cocker Spaniel on Sundays.

Oscar is only tiny but he's full of energy. He always waits in the window on Mondays and Thursdays for me to arrive after work and he's always so excited when I get there to take him to the park. We have a really close bond and I think we both get so much out of our walks. I work for a charity that works with families whilst their child is in hospital and although I really love my job, I find it really hard to wind down if anything stressful or upsetting has happened during the day. Once I get in the car and know I am on the way to walk Oscar, it's such a relief. Even if the weather's bad or I feel tired or down, there's nothing better than just getting out there with him and getting some fresh air. For Oscar, it's a break from the house and he adores his walks. He's naturally active and a very social little dog. He'll race to the park to see who's there and he loves a fuss! His owner Doreen has a great sense of humour so it's always nice to catch up after a walk, even if it's just to talk about what we're both having for tea that night!



Charlotte and William

On Sundays I walk William for Hilary. There's some gorgeous walks where she lives so Will gets lots of variety. You could go through the fields and woodland and not come across

another human or dog! There's just a complete sense of tranquillity up there. Will is slowing down now he's getting older, but he still loves the excitement of going for a walk. I catch up with Hilary when I come back from my walks too and I always end up learning something new by the time I leave.

It's so special to see how important both dogs are to their owners. They are their source of companionship during the days and it's so rewarding to be able to help support them by doing something so simple. For me, it doesn't feel like I'm volunteering - it's just something I do now. When I signed up to do this, I never appreciated just how much it would benefit my mental health as well as my physical health. I'm incredibly proud to be a Cinnamon Trust walker!"



Bridget and **Andy Harper** in Birmingham say:

"In 2015 we decided to apply to be volunteers and we were very excited to have the applications accepted and to receive a call fairly quickly. The request was to walk not one but two Border Collies for Ann who lived literally around the corner from where we live. Ella was 7 and Izzy 4 and, very sadly, Ann's husband Alan had died several months earlier. Alan had been the dog walker and trainer and idolised his lovely dogs. Unfortunately, Ann has serious health issues and could not regularly walk Ella and Izzy herself and, after Alan died, she was reliant on the kindness of friends and family members in the short term.

When we met Ella and Izzy for the first time in April 2015, we fell in love with them immediately. Ella is now 12 and the elder of the two and is a rather reserved black and white short haired Collie who loves strolling round the nearby park on the lead sniffing everything in sight and occasionally having a little bit of play time off the lead. Izzy on the other hand is a very lively 7 year old, playful brown and white long-haired Collie who is full of energy. She is so excited to go for her walk and loves time off the lead retrieving a tennis ball and racing around the park under the watchful eye of Andy. Both dogs are very well behaved and a credit to Alan and Ann. When we collect them for their walk Izzy in particular is so happy to have a trip to the park.



Andy Harper with Ella and Izzy

It was clear to us from the start that the dogs had different exercise needs and

Andy took charge of Izzy while I walk more sedately with Ella who loves to sniff things out. We walk them twice a week for an hour each time. It gives us a great deal of pleasure to know that the dogs have some exercise in the park rather than just the back garden.

They both adore Ann and she loves them so much. She says the dogs are “her world” and it is so wonderful to know that we are playing a very small part in providing the dogs with a bit more exercise. Izzy and Ella quickly bonded with us and the joy on their faces when we pick them up is a wonderful sight. Like all dogs, these Border Collies need both exercise and a break from home in a different environment. We hope that Ann has the reassurance that her precious dogs have a safe environment to run around with people she can trust.”

.... And owner **Ann Heath** writes:

“After the death of my husband Alan in 2014, I found it increasingly difficult to walk any distance with my beautiful Border Collies, Ella and Izzy, due to health and mobility problems. In 2015 I found out via a friend about the wonderful work The Cinnamon Trust do in providing help and support where needed, with dog walking and fostering much loved pets, when owners are not able to or owners have sadly passed away.

Through The Cinnamon Trust, Bridget and Andy came into our lives and over the past 4 years have walked Ella and Izzy twice weekly. They are always greeted with lots of enthusiasm and tail wagging because they love their walks. Bridget and Andy have been a Godsend. The love they have for Ella and Izzy clearly shows and it gives me reassurance knowing that Ella and Izzy are happy and safe in their hands.

I don't drive and so Bridget and Andy also provide support or help should either Ella or Izzy need to attend the vet which is such a relief to me.

I am truly grateful for all the help and support they give me. I cannot thank them and The Cinnamon Trust enough for the wonderful work they do. Bless you.”

Since this item was written, Ella became ill and sadly died on the 20th of December. Ann wanted the article to be published in memory of her adored companion.



This is lovely from **Jo Seccombe** in Devon:

“It was watching my mother in her old age that I realised just how important the

relationships with our pets are as we grow older. The very nature of getting old does often mean we tend to become more isolated. We sadly end up with fewer people to put our arms around, less physical contact, and fewer 'people' to love.

Milly was my Mum's beloved Greyhound and she received many hugs and much love! Mum and I were determined that Milly would be with her always. Luckily, she was. But I know it's not always easy.

So it was in honour of my Mum, and dogs like Milly (I think of them as care dogs) that I first volunteered as a Cinnamon Trust walker to help in a small way to enable others to keep their pets for longer.

Missy and her owner Peter live in a busy care home. They are both delightful. Peter has memory problems but this has not diminished his sunny nature. We always have great chats when I collect and drop Missy off. He also enjoys seeing my little terrier Zaite; she and Missy play like mad. We have found lots in common and it was really helpful when I met his support worker who was able to tell me lots more about Peter's history.



I share the walking with two other volunteers, Clare and Sandy, between us we see that Missy gets plenty of walks and fun throughout the week.

When we first started walking Missy I think that maybe she had been enjoying one or two too many custard creams from the residents! She very definitely needed the exercise!

My great love is walking on Dartmoor so I really wanted a dog who would manage to get to the top of the Tors. I took things gently for the first week or two but now Missy can go for hours on the moors. I don't know if she had been there before, but the first time I took her on a boggy bit of ground she was hilarious, eyes on stalks, lifting her feet and clearly enjoying the lovely soft squidgyness between her toes. For ages after she went out of her way to go in the muddy bits which was a bit inconvenient until I showed her how lovely it was to paddle in the river before she got back in the car!

Missy is a typical terrier who just exudes joy and alertness on her walks, all

busyness and excitement, all dog, and all fun.

However, when she steps into the home again she is calm, placid and gentle. She has a wonderful loving nature and is adored by all. I truly think that she feels she has a job to do and that Peter is not the only one to benefit from Missy's healing presence.

Peter is the person she loves best. One of the most touching images is to see is Peter curled up with Missy in his arms

That is all that matters.

Someone to love.

It gives me pleasure to watch Missy....

And Missy gives and gives."



Patricia Hughes writes from Hampshire:



"I was called by The Cinnamon Trust who asked if I would foster a sweet little dog called Patch as his Mum had been rushed into hospital. Patch was dropped off by Nick, the owner's son, and what a little darling! He settled very well and was fine through the night, no accidents and woke in the morning bright and happy. He loves the garden and is fascinated by our nasturtiums!

Lucy Wilkinson is an elderly Patterdale that I walk three times a week for a local lady and I did wonder whether they would be ok walking together, so I bought her to meet him at our house to see if they would be okay together, and as they were, we walked back to Lucy's together.

I stayed in contact with The Cinnamon Trust and they forwarded a picture of Patch to Mary while she was in hospital, so she knew all was well and that he was getting the 5 star treatment!

It's been a pleasure to have him stay he was the perfect guest."

Owner **Mary Myers** says:

"I recently had the misfortune to be admitted to hospital late one Tuesday evening, leaving my 'baby boy' home alone. My Cinnamon Trust dog walker had contacted the office to say they had not been able to get hold of me, but Patch was at home barking. David, my walker, was concerned and the office called my son and let him know there was a possible situation at home. Luckily, my son took a day off from work to look after him and have a conversation with The Cinnamon Trust.

By Wednesday evening a foster Mum and Dad (Patricia & John) had been found for him. That is when my recovery began, the relief of knowing he was being cared for was such a good feeling.

Patch and I would like to say a big thank you to my Tuesday dog walker, David, for initially raising the alarm to everyone at The Cinnamon Trust and also to Patricia and John for looking after him so well. What a great team you all make."



Jan Shoulders sends this from Surrey:

"We received a call from Liz at the Cinnamon Trust to say that Tiggy, 'a very friendly Staffie', needed a short term foster as his owner Aileen had been taken to hospital after collapsing at home. She had been on the floor for 2 days, and thankfully Tiggy never left her side. A neighbour who was a policeman noticed that there were curtains still drawn and, thank goodness, checked on his neighbour. Aileen was rushed off but Tiggy was home alone all day with neighbours popping in, so we rushed over to him that evening. We were let in by a neighbour, Rachel, who had let him out for a pee but said she hadn't been able to walk him. After a couple of minutes calling out "Tiggy!" the most handsome brindle and white Staffie arrived wagging his tail furiously, jumping about and howling like a cross between a hyena and a Tasmanian devil! We rapidly found his lead and my partner Dave took Tiggy for a quick walk whilst Rachel and I hunted for everything Tiggy would need. We eventually found his food including his all-important large tin of Bonios and, at the last moment, spotted his harness. It was time to get him to his temporary home.



Jan with Tiggy

He happily jumped into the back of the car with me and we were on our way. An 'interesting' 35 minute journey ensued as a very restless Staffie clambered on my lap (and occasionally my head) all the time keeping up his hyena impression! Definitely worth investing in a car safety harness for the future, I think. Tiggy rushed into our house and rapidly had a sniff around to make sure we could meet his requirements – a nice warm house, a comfy sofa, a bed and his Bonios. After a brief walk and some food he settled down on the sofa to sleep whilst I tried to work out where I was going to sit! It had been a tiring evening so we soon headed for bed leaving a snoring Staffie on the sofa.

About an hour later 15kg of muscle took a flying leap onto our bed and, eventually finding a place that wasn't occupied, settled himself down. Unfortunately sometime in the early hours he decided he was cold and needed to get under the covers. I woke up to find a Staffie on my pillow scrabbling at the duvet! I lifted the top duvet for him and he slithered down under the covers and was soon gently snoring once more.

We soon established a daily routine. Dave took him out to the garden for a pee first thing, after which he would rush back to our bed and disappear under the covers for half an hour while we had our tea. I should add that three cups of tea were needed as Tiggy was not at all keen on water and preferred a nice cup of tea, cooled down and poured into his bowl. Luckily this information, plus his preference for Turkey and Lamb in jelly, not gravy, was included in his registration notes. This made such a difference in getting him settled.

After his breakfast and a quick snooze it was time for a morning stroll. The mere mention of 'walkies' or picking up his harness would send Tiggy into a whirl of excitement. The noise he made had to be heard to be believed. Once out of our garden though he was far less sure of himself and the sight of another dog would cause his nervous excitement to go into overdrive. He was very strong on the lead and initially I struggled to contain him. After discussions with Liz we realised that the slightly strange looking lead we had found at his home was a double lead – we had never seen one before! Tiggy was clearly used to a double lead and was much more controllable on it. He still pulled towards other dogs and, if they reacted to him, would produce his hyena howl but at least we felt in control.

Once back through our garden gate, we could remove Tiggy's harness and he would have a quick shake before charging round to the back door waiting to be let in. He was happy and secure in his own territory once more. He would then be very agitated until we performed the Bonio ceremony. At first, I would just hand him his Bonio but it soon became clear this was not correct procedure. He would take the Bonio, hurl it cross the room and then charge around in circles intermittently 'attacking' the Bonio until it was properly subdued and he could carry it off to be eaten at his leisure. After I got the hang of the ceremony, I realised

I should start things off by hurling the Bonio across the room so Tiggy didn't have to do this himself!

Once breakfast, walk and Bonio ceremony were done, Tiggy would very happily settle down for a snooze as long as he could be close to either Dave or myself and find himself a comfy spot. For Tiggy, however, a comfy spot was very rarely, if ever, on the floor. If we were in one of the bedrooms then he would be on the bed, if in the lounge he would be on the sofa. If one of us was occupying one of our pair of leather armchairs he would be on the other one. If he was feeling a bit chilly or fancied a cuddle then he would manoeuvre his considerable bulk on to my lap!

Sadly, after three and a half weeks we had to let Tiggy move on as we were soon to depart on a lengthy trip abroad. His owner was still very poorly in hospital and there was no sign of her being discharged. Liz managed to find a new foster home for Tiggy with Patrica and John who Tiggy immediately fell in love with. As we said our slightly tearful goodbyes to Tiggy he was already snuggling up to John in the back of the car looking forward to the second part of his two centre holiday and he disappeared up the road without so much as a backward glance.

Our first close encounter with a Staffie had been fascinating, immense fun and, at times, a bit challenging! From the start Tiggy had (generally!) politely let us know what he required and we had found a way of accommodating him. If he could talk I'm sure he would say that it took a while to get the staff trained but he got there in the end!"



From East Sussex, **Susan Elliott** writes:

"I had a message left on my answerphone on a Friday afternoon from The Cinnamon Trust asking if I might be able to foster two little Yorkshire Terriers on behalf of their elderly owner, John, who had had to go into hospital. I did not get the message until the evening and assumed someone else would have stepped in. But, it seemed not, and on Monday I got another call.

John's daughter had been able to look after Alfie and Pip (9 and 10) over the weekend, but she was getting desperate as she worked long hours. I arranged to go and pick the dogs up and could immediately see they were happy little chaps, tiny and with little wobbly legs which is common to their breed. They came back to my home and soon settled in with my rescue dogs - an elderly Labrador and a Bichon. They were a bit like Duracell bunnies exploring the garden and did not stop for a good hour.

The Trust phoned and asked if it was ok if John phoned from his hospital bed - "of



Alfie and Pip

course!”. He was so grateful that his 'boys' were being looked after, he said he had been concerned for a while about what would happen in an emergency as he had regular heart problems. He said it had been a huge relief when he had found The Cinnamon Trust and had registered with them. We had Alfie and Pip for six days - with John phoning from time to time. His appreciation was touching.

When I drove them home they were as delighted to see him as he them. We had a long chat - he had been a BBC sports commentator for forty years - and he was so happy to be home. He asked if there was a chance we could have his 'boys' again if, as was likely, he had to return to hospital. I assured him we could. I had only done

volunteer dog walking for The Cinnamon Trust before but would not hesitate in recommending the role of fostering.”



And **Jenny Mansell** sends this from the West Midlands:

“I was just about to collect Freddie for his walk, when a phone call came from The Cinnamon Trust to tell me that Freddie’s daddy, Mick, was in hospital, and the family were looking for a somewhere to place Freddie. I quickly said yes, I could



Freddie with Jenny and husband

help, and rushed round to collect him. For the first couple of days Freddie was quiet and sad, everything was so different for him but we gave him lots of love and attention and it all changed.

We went for loads of walks in new, exciting and muddy places; his tail was up and waggy. He is such a clever boy and a real comedian, he started doing some funny things like dragging his bed into the garden and

sunbathing, growling at his bowl when it was dinner time, and flopping on the floor with his back to me when he wanted a walk, staring at me and sulking as if to say “I’m bored and want a walk”

I sent lots of photos and videos to Mick while he was in hospital so he wouldn’t worry. If I needed any help or support, The Cinnamon Trust was there to help me. Freddie was with me for two months, and I enjoyed every moment with my furry friend.

The reunion with Mick was very emotional, he was so grateful. I have resumed walking, which I would not miss for the world, and I have reassured Mick that I would always be happy to care for Freddie again with the help of The Cinnamon Trust.”



Jane Game from North Humberside writes:

“I had been volunteer dog walking for a few years for The Cinnamon Trust for a lovely lady and her two King Charles Spaniels, Sasha & Toby which I enjoyed - not only getting to know the dogs, but also their owner. After losing my own dog, Jack, in May last year, I asked if I could be considered for short term fostering and in October last year was asked if I would foster Lizzie whose owner unfortunately had been taken into hospital.

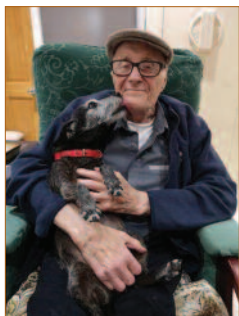
Lizzie, a Patterdale Terrier, arrived one dark October night, unfortunately her owner’s daughter broke down on the drive bringing her to us and after waiting for the breakdown van they arrived quite late. Lizzie wasn’t fazed at all and ran down the path and didn’t take very long to settle in getting comfy on the sofa. Having owned a Patterdale myself, I knew nothing much bothers them and, although she would be missing her owner, she would just get on with it the best she could.

Lizzie loved her walks and meeting other people and other dogs, she was a delight to take out. Her favourite pastime was chasing balls and could always find the energy to do that even though she was an elderly lady. We took her to the coast on New Year’s Eve for a nice walk along the beach, unfortunately Lizzie decided that any ball on the beach, whether another dog’s or young children playing football, was hers which was quite amusing.

Her other little party trick was sitting up and begging. She could hold that pose for quite some time and knew that it would usually get her what she wanted.

She unfortunately did suffer with some illness whilst with us, which meant quite a few visits to the vets and daily medicine. However, she went to the vets with no

problems and took her medicine easily. It took quite a few weeks to get her back to health trying different diets and medicine but with a lot of support from The Cinnamon Trust she got there and by the time she was reunited with her owner she was doing fine.



Kenneth with Lizzie Dripping

Lizzie ended up staying with us for five and half months and everyone who met her loved her. I was sorry to see her go, but more than delighted that her owner had recovered enough to get home and couldn't wait to get her back.

Once she had settled back at home Kenneth and his family invited us to go and visit her which of course we jumped at the chance. Kenneth was a lovely man and so pleased to have her back. He told us that Lizzie Dripping (which is what he called her) was his soul mate. It was so rewarding to have had the privilege of helping to care for someone's pet whilst they were unable and to see them reunited was very special."



Jane Stacey in Norfolk says:

"My sister Ali and I and our respective husbands (Mick and Chris) all retired last year and relocated to Norfolk in October. It was the first time for many years we had not had a pet of our own as, unfortunately, our beloved dog and cats had all passed away and were sorely missed. Because we all had big plans to travel, we



didn't feel ready to commit to another pet just yet, but signed up with The Cinnamon Trust for their short-term fostering scheme and have not looked back.

This is Jack's story. We fostered him whilst his poor mum, Valerie, was taken into hospital. We had the call from The Cinnamon Trust telling us all about this easy-going little dog called Jack. His mum was very poorly and had had to undergo emergency surgery. The Trust walked Jack for Valerie and when she was rushed in her son, Tim, called and asked The Cinnamon Trust for help. "Could we help and foster?". The reply was a yes, but we were all going away together on a holiday in Norfolk. However, it was a dog friendly break and we said that if the family did not mind we would



take Jack with us to the seaside for a week.

We had a great time with Jack on holiday and we all enjoyed having a lovely dog to walk and cuddle. Here are some photos of us all on our holiday. He really was an easy dog to look after and a credit to his mum during his stay. He is now back with his mum and we have looked after 2 lovely doggies since then”.



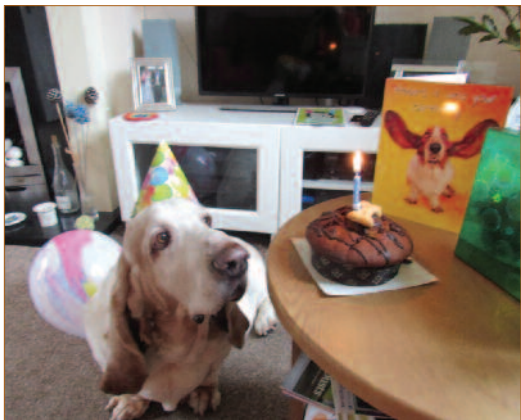
Catherine Tideswell writes from Leicestershire:

“We first took Roscoe for short term fostering in July when his lifelong fosterer was on holiday. It was the week before the school holidays, so I had many onlookers making comments, especially at the school gates - “ah, look at that dog mummy” -as he casually bounded along sniffing every other minute. Looking after a Bassett Hound is like walking around with a celebrity and I’d speak to people whom I have never spoken to before – that’s the magic of dogs and The Cinnamon Trust! I would tell them about the work of The Trust and do my best to spread the word here in sunny Leicestershire.

Roscoe had taken a shine to my 8-year-old and slept by her bed every night, even though getting up the stairs was hard work with his arthritis. Roscoe loves nothing more than a tummy rub/massage, and rolls over as if to ask for more. If I was out for a few hours he didn’t mind Radio 2 or Classic FM. When I came back home, he’d bark and try and jump up which looked quite awkward for him and was so funny.

We had him again for a few days in August and Roscoe continued to turn heads everywhere we went. Like all of us, dogs gain weight as they age. Therefore, his

prescribed diet was portioned twice daily. Even so, I'd feed him then have my own breakfast/dinner only to get those longing Bassett eyes hoping for some 'extras'. Could we break with tradition? I think so...particularly as I learned that in a few days it would be Roscoe's 12th birthday!



I joked about getting a cake and thought nothing more of it, but I then got a little prompt from The Cinnamon Trust. I saw a large muffin size cake on the Pets at Home website and popped there after the Saturday chores. I found a party hat, got him a card and a few other bits. My husband, daughter and I sang 'happy birthday.' and Roscoe was a good boy and waited (I wonder if that had something to do with a lighted candle?). After helping him 'blow' out

the candle, I sliced the cake into 3 pieces (which left him a piece for Sunday and Monday) and he wolfed it down! That only makes him 64 (using a pedigree converter), which these days isn't old. I only hope that when I get to 64, I'll still be bounding along!!"



And now to catch up with a few of our Cinnamon Pets in lifelong foster.



First, **Patricia Inglelew** in Worcestershire is besotted with.... Little Katie, or Hildegard, or Ena Sharples.... Depending....

"Who knows what she's thinking, who knows what she's remembering (behind those lovely green eyes) all these sixteen years. Here she comes! Wallop! On my knee as usual, chattering away, poking me with her right paw - never the left - she requires more attention, more scratches, and more strokes. 'Tabbytortie' is what I am told is her colour, with pale gold eyeliner like Tutankhamun. She is a real little girl though, so delicate, light and silent in her movements. After many years of owning great boy clodhoppers, she is so different....like a feather. Truly.

onto the footpath. Then the funny times when she gallops up the stairs 'like a rat up a drainpipe' to get into my bedroom before me and take a flying leap onto my bed - this madness often occurs when she's done an enormous poo!. Or, from the window ledge, where she has been surveying the night garden for a while and then decides to leap again out of my bed, waking me up with a start in the dark night. When she settles down for a deep sleep, I must be careful where I put my feet, for she likes to lie either corner of the bottom of the duvet - she never falls off, despite her closeness to the edge. What a clever little thing she is!

She is a piece of work, indeed.

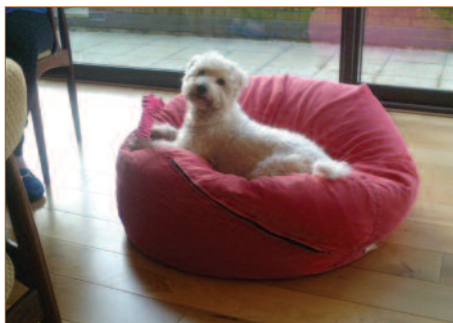
It is a great pleasure to be her lifetime carer. I wouldn't have been able to afford another little furry friend without their help.

Hats off to The Cinnamon Trust!"



Jackie Bailey (North Humberside) and Phoebe are living life to the full:

"I had my first contact with The Cinnamon Trust because our two rescue dogs had died at the ripe old age of 17, and I had an injury to my foot which I needed to exercise by walking three times a day. I hated walking without a dog, so registered with The Trust to help someone who was struggling with walking their dog. But before I was paired up with anyone I was contacted to ask if I would foster a dog who had lost their owner. I asked how long the foster was for, to be told 'for life'. My husband and I discussed it and decided to give Phoebe a new home. So, we set out one Saturday in December 2017 to pick up Phoebe from Angie who had been looking after her over Christmas. It was love at first sight, she was so fussy and after a briefing from Angie about feeding etc we put her in the back of the car for the 150 mile journey back home. She was brilliant and slept all the way. When we arrived home she settled in very quickly and soon made some new doggy and human friends in the local park.



It very soon became apparent that Phoebe is food driven and thinks anything within her reach is hers – even if this means climbing on tables or opening cupboard doors. We first noticed this when we had friends staying and we had eaten breakfast and were showing them some pictures in another room, forgetting we had left the breakfast pots on the table. Phoebe climbed on the table took the

lid off the butter dish and ate 1/2 lb butter! We also found that nothing in the car was safe; she even managed to open the glove compartment one day and eat some treats stored in there. We now have a cage for her in the car, which she hops in quite freely, and settles down for the journey. She loves going out for the day with us, especially to the seaside where she loves to paddle and swim.

The next thing to come to her attention was my husband's coat which was hung in the cupboard. She realized there were some dog biscuits in the pocket so chewed the bottom of the pocket until the biscuits fell out leaving a hole to be repaired!

She loves to help in the garden, especially digging holes and ends up being more black than white and then has to have a bath (which she really seems to enjoy) and then has a mad half hour rushing round at a great rate of knots.

When she first came to us my brother in law was in hospital and we took her into the pet friendly hospital and she became quite a star with everyone. She quickly knew exactly where the treats were kept and which of the patients gave her the greatest fuss.

We have taken her away with us on many occasions and she just settles wherever we end up – put her bed down and she will make any bedroom her room, she stays in her bed during the night but as soon as one of us moves in the morning she is on the bed with us for some fussing. Pubs are her delight; she walks in as though she owns the place and seems to make friends with everyone and then settles down and sleeps until it is time to go home.

Whether we are at home or away, she always has a treat at 9pm and you can set your clock by her – she seems to be fast asleep but will wake at exactly 9pm and ask for her treat. If we don't respond immediately then she starts to pick up her toys and throw them around. You have to be careful if she throws a bone as they hurt if they hit your ankle!

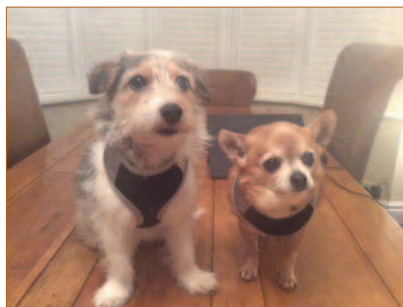
When we go away and can't take her with us, The Cinnamon Trust have found us the most wonderful 'Aunty' for her in Lincolnshire. Phoebe goes mad when she sees her and they obviously enjoy their holidays together, while we go away knowing she is being well looked after.

Phoebe has brought such joy and laughter into our lives and we hope she enjoys living with us as much as we enjoy having her. It is so reassuring to have the backing of The Cinnamon Trust and to know they will always be there for both Phoebe and us."



Billy and **Sally** land on their feet with **Dee Burdett** in the West Midlands:

“The Cinnamon Trust came to the rescue when two little dogs, Sally and Billy, were faced with the loss of their owners and their home. Two elderly sisters, who had lived together all their lives, had come to the point where they had lost all mental capacity and had to go into a care home.



Sally and Billy

Through The Trust I had been helping the dogs' owners when this catastrophic event occurred and felt for these poor little dogs who had been the sisters' loyal companions. This is, of course, with the support of The Cinnamon Trust. Moira was such a star, helping me through getting the right care and support to get these lovely dogs back to health. As their owners health deteriorated, so did theirs - they were a traumatised little pair.

We have, with love and patience, included them into our home long-term. Fortunately, our 6 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel accepted them as new roommates. It was as if he sensed that they needed our love. My partner, who was away at the time of these two new arrivals, was incredibly supportive, given we had not long lost his beloved Labrador, Alfie.

Billy remains a nervous little fella and causes a kerfuffle at any loud noise, particularly when there is a knock at the door, backed up ably by his partner in crime, Sally. They love their daily walk to the park. Sally is like a whippet, running at a 100 miles an hour, exploring her surroundings and greeting all who give her the slightest of attention. Everyone loves Sally. Billy dislikes walking on the lead and is happy to keep close behind with his little legs going like the clappers to keep up. He does accept a little attention from children, but he is mainly reserved.

They have a daily spat, playing with each other as that is all they knew, and it is rather cute when it ends with Sally licking Billy's face.

I feel privileged to be part of The Cinnamon Trust family of long term foster carers who offered me, Billy, Sally and my partner the support to make a difference in difficult circumstances.”



And in Warwickshire, **Jenny** stole the heart of **Gail Rocket**:

“I was initially asked to short-term foster Jenny the Jack Russell by The Cinnamon



Trust until the charity found her a life-long home after her owner passed away.

However, from the minute I picked her up and took her back to my house, I knew she was not going anywhere else. I asked if she could stay on a permanent basis – to which the answer was, thankfully, yes.

Jenny owns every piece of furniture, I never eat alone (almond eyes watching every mouthful) and I don't need a doorbell. Her bark is as loud as a Rottweiler, her heart is as brave as a lion and she is so smart she could finish The Times crossword (something I can't do).

We've been together nearly a year now and her big personality has made an impact on everyone. Taking on Jenny has been one of the best things I have done. Thank you, Cinnamon Trust."



Jeff and Michelle Seymour (Norfolk) welcomed Izzy....



Mandy and Misty Collies with Ben, Izzy and Alfie

"We first heard about The Cinnamon Trust through friends of ours who were dog walkers for a lady who had 2 Collies, Mandy and Misty, and a Gordon Setter called Izzy, all nearly 10 years old. Their owner was terminally ill and was receiving dog walking help from The Trust, who were actively trying to find new homes so their owner had peace of mind that her dogs were settled before she passed away.

Our friends, Steve and Annette, took the 2 Collies but could not accommodate 3 dogs so they asked us if we might be interested in taking on Izzy, the Setter. As we already have 2 dogs Ben (Labrador 9 years old) and Alfie (Westie 7 years old), we took Izzy for a couple of walks along with home visit, and they all got on fine.

We spoke to The Cinnamon Trust and an official home visit was scheduled. A short time after, we got a call from HQ who told us that we had passed. We had a long chat with a lady called Moira about how fostering works and the support

The Trust offers. We had lots of questions as taking on an older dog can come with unexpected financial expenditure. Moira from The Trust explained to us that as we were going to foster Izzy long term vet bills would be covered as technically The Trust would own her. This was a huge relief as we wanted to take her on but vets bills were a concern.

In our experience with Izzy, we have found that it doesn't matter to us who owns her, she is now in her forever home and The Trust are more than happy with that arrangement. We believe it is because of the legal ownership distinction that many older dogs are given a home for life through The Trust. When Izzy came to us, it took a couple of weeks for all 3 dogs to settle in fully, and now they are as thick as thieves.

As Izzy had been brought up in a multi dog home, The Trust wanted her be in a house with other dogs, and were especially delighted that she would be able to see her sisters regularly. When Izzy came to us, she wasn't sure how to play with the others as Mandy and Misty were bonded together and were not really the inclusive playful type. Alfie, however, soon had Izzy running and chasing each other around the garden like puppies. Ben took a bit more time before he started joining in (he's a bit more aloof than Alfie).

Izzy has really come out of her shell in the 9 months she has been with us; she can be found lying on one of 2 dog sofas stretched out snoring and if we can't find her we either look on our bed or behind one of the bushes in the back garden where she will stick out her head and then come out tail wagging, usually followed by Alfie.

She is not an especially vocal dog - that is until I haven't got my dog walking boots on quick enough for her and then this long low drawn out woofing tells me to hurry up! Luckily, our village is extremely dog friendly and even has its own dog walking field, where she can run about quite happily. Her recall isn't as good as Ben and Alfie's, but she does come back and looks for us if she can't see us when we go around a corner. She has become a big hit in the village, especially as she likes to nick the other dog's balls and chew them up, to the point where everybody has now bought tougher balls, or Izzy proof ones as they are now known!

We are looking forward to our first camping trip away with Izzy in August. We believe she will love it especially as she will get to sleep right next to us at night.

We are so glad The Trust have allowed to look after Izzy. We have discussed how The Cinnamon Trust gives peace of mind to owners, as well as homes to their pets, and would definitely consider fostering again in the future."



Jack has made his forever home in Norwich with **Mike** and **Tara Bickendike**:

“We first met Jack, a Sprocker, in July 2019 when a request went out for walkers to help his owner, Jean. She had been unable to walk him for some time due to mobility issues and someone in the village had suggested she contact The Cinnamon Trust for assistance. We had been walking another dog on Thursday



Jack with Mike and Tara

afternoons for a couple of years, and had already thought we could volunteer to do some more so, as Jack was only a couple of miles down the road, this was an ideal opportunity.

After getting details from The Trust, we arranged to go down and meet Jean and see if we passed the audition with Jack. It transpired he hadn't been walked for a long time, apart from carers sometimes taking him briefly along the road, but once he saw us pick up his lead he got very excited and started running around the room. Once it was clipped to his collar, there was barely time to say goodbye to Jean as he dragged us towards the front door and out the house. The first time we just walked him along the roads outside the house, but it was a very slow process as it appeared literally everything needed to be

sniffed, so by the time we got back to the house we had not covered much distance. However, next time, we decided we would put him in the car and take him down to the quayside and we were greeted with much enthusiasm on arrival. As before, the lead dictated it was immediately time to leave the house, and getting in a car was just the icing on the cake for Jack who adores being chauffeured about. We always enjoyed walking Jack and the village in the Norfolk Broads is very picturesque and has lots of different routes to choose from.

Then, in late October, we were shocked to receive a call to say that Jean had suddenly passed away in the night. Alongside this terrible news we, of course, wondered what was happening with Jack. It transpired that he had been taken to the yard at the back of the garage while the emergency services were in the house. The Trust contacted the relevant parties to gain access to Jack and, after a few telephone conversations, we were told we could collect Jack as the family had agreed The Trust could take formal ownership of him. We went to the yard but there was no sign of him and our immediate thought was that in a panic he had managed to get out. As we looked around and called out his name he suddenly came out from a cage underneath the table in the garage. It transpired this was his old cage, so he must have gone into it for comfort. We were greeted with

much affection, though he looked very scared too. He wanted to go back into the house, but we managed to persuade him to have a ride in the car and he then came back to our house. As well as his lead, bed, food and bowls we brought his blanket from the sofa and put that on to ours so he had some familiar smells. He was relaxed once inside and checked out all the rooms, apparently to his satisfaction, before jumping on the sofa and flopping down. He didn't immediately eat anything but before too long he realised there was no point feeling hungry and had his meal. Since then, he has settled in very well and made himself completely at home with his servants on call, of course. His sofa is occasionally offered to humans to share but ultimately they have theirs and he has his. The fact it is the bigger one is immaterial, he says!

We had planned to go to Jean's funeral and her sons requested Jack came along too. We were happy to take him and he behaved perfectly in the church, which was probably because Jean's husband was a vicar so he had had a lot of experience of meeting parishioners. As Jean was well known in the village the church was full, with extra seats having to be found, so we sat at the back. Jack was as good as gold and happy to greet those that came up to him to say hello. Interestingly, his most enthusiastic greeting was saved for one of his Cinnamon Trust volunteers! We are finding Jack is very well known in the village, as we have been stopped by many people who recognise him. We are happy to assure them he was taken care of locally through The Trust and has settled nicely into his new home.

We initially said we would foster Jack short-term and see how he was with us and we with him, but after a few weeks we realised we couldn't contemplate him going to live with anyone else. He had become part of the family and we were already buying his Christmas presents! So, we formally applied to give him his forever home, and recently had an inspection. We have just been told that we qualified and so Jack is here to stay which makes us all very happy."



Joan Kelly writes poignantly from London:

"I first met Cassie and her owner, Ethel, in November 2017 which was when I started volunteering with The Cinnamon Trust.

I wanted to volunteer partly because of my love for animals, also because I love walking and being out in parks and open spaces anyway. I felt because of that, it was a good opportunity to give a dog plenty of exercise and for a dog to get out and play with other dogs. Cassie loves chasing dogs that are chasing their ball. She isn't interested in chasing a ball of her own. Along with this, I was interested in befriending a vulnerable elderly person who may be feeling isolated, particularly

if they were no longer able to get out of their home.

Before I got involved with The Cinnamon Trust I had been thinking about getting a dog myself, but I then had an unwell elderly cat who needed a lot of care and who may not have been able to cope with a dog sharing his home. Volunteering with The Cinnamon Trust was a good opportunity for me to have a doggie, but not all of the time.

Cassie's owner Ethel, has had dogs as her pets throughout her life and was in much need of support from The Cinnamon Trust. She had become housebound which left her no longer able to take Cassie out for her walks, to the vet or the groomers. Without doubt, Cassie and Ethel would have been separated at that time without support from The Cinnamon Trust. The Cinnamon Trust arranged for Ethel to be supported by three volunteers walking Cassie. Lucky Cassie and lucky Ethel!

Ethel often felt isolated and alone. My visits and our friendship, along with the joy and comfort she gets from Cassie, have been so important to Ethel and a pleasure for me being able to support to her in this way.



Cassie with Ethel

Sadly, at the end of 2018, Ethel could no longer manage living in her home and now lives in a care home. At that time, I really wanted to foster Cassie long-term with the help of The Cinnamon Trust as Cassie knew me well, and vice versa, and I really felt that Ethel trusted me to care for Cassie. Although there was a very stressful change in Cassie's environment having to leave living with Ethel and both of them being separated, I felt that at least if Cassie came to live with me she would

still be with someone she knows. Very importantly, we could still see Ethel and that way, at least, Ethel was not completely separated from Cassie.

Also, we have been fortunate that the care home where Ethel now lives is nearby, because this has made it easy for Cassie and I to maintain our regular visits to Ethel.

Ethel, being very frail and living with dementia, can do little for herself now. This in turn often leaves her feeling sad, anxious and confused, but not all of the time. However, I find that our visits, where Cassie will sit on Ethel's lap or beside her in her bed, brings joy to Ethel's face and gives her great comfort. These times also usually help bring Ethel out of her confusion and discomfort for a while. Cassie is very cute and quite a character which also brings fun to our visits."

And from Leeds, **Carole Gosden's** view is also poignant....

“Entertaining Angels Unaware.

As I write, my husband and I are mourning the death of our beloved Fido, a Parson Jack Russell, who had to be put to sleep after becoming increasingly ill over the past few weeks. He was 16 and it has been a privilege to care for him for his last two and a half years. His original owner had died at the age of 98 and, after a temporary stay with us for a holiday cover, The Cinnamon Trust asked if we would consider fostering him for life. He was pure white, rather nervous at first and hating to be left alone, but very gentle and sweet natured – like a little angel coming into our lives bringing extra love and interest, and making our regular country walks much more meaningful.



Fido became very popular with many of our elderly friends in the village, some of whom bought their own supply of dog biscuits for the pleasure of interacting with him. Walks in the park always included smiles and pleasant looks from other walkers, as well as delighted cries of “doggie” from pointing toddlers in pushchairs. He was calm and friendly with other dogs, though never keen to become too involved with them, preferring to stick close to his human family.

Fido was already old when he came to us, with signs of cataract in his eyes, some warts and lumps, and problems with his teeth, but he gradually gained confidence in his new situation and enjoyed a full, happy life. The Cinnamon Trust were always very supportive with advice and covered the necessary vets' bills, ever more so towards the end as Fido became blind, less mobile and off his food.

So despite the likelihood of health problems in an older dog, and despite the sorrow of finally losing them, I can say that giving a home for a while to a pet who needs one has been truly life-enhancing for us – and might be for others too.”



Gorko and **Minstrel** are very happy in Cornwall with **Nicky Hadsell**:

“Gorko and Minstrel came to live with me and my husband at the beginning of March 2019 as their owner had sadly passed away.

We had been without a cat for almost five years (too long) and had been living in our first home of our own for almost two years, so things felt settled sufficiently to finally consider having another cat. Our home and our lives were perfect for sharing with cats, but the main concern preventing us from getting one was the risk of potential veterinary fees. We have had experience of large veterinary fees

in the past and were fearful of how we would manage if it were to happen again. I had heard of The Cinnamon Trust and loved the idea of the amazing work they do. I had already been thinking that I would want to give a home to a rescue cat if I was going to have one, but the potential veterinary fees were just too much of a worry. So, it was absolutely amazing when I realised that The Cinnamon Trust provide all their fosterers with a strong support framework that also includes the safety net of paying for any veterinary fees. At long last my dream of having another cat to share my life with and give my love to could finally happen.

Once I had persuaded my husband that this was truly the case regarding the support framework and safety net of The Cinnamon Trust, we realised that we would actually be able to give a loving permanent home to not just one, but at least two cats! Very exciting times.... So, I contacted The Cinnamon Trust to register my interest and offer up our loving home to their cause. Almost instantly a bonded pair of cats, Minstrel and Gorko became in need of a home and within a couple of days a lovely representative from The Cinnamon Trust had visited me for a home check and came away saying that we really did have the perfect home to give cats a very happy life.

The Cinnamon Trust made all the arrangements to have this pair of fur babies delivered to me and, within a few short days, they arrived on a Sunday morning. It was an absolutely wonderful moment as my husband and I opened the doors of their cat carriers and stood back giving them space to come out in their own



Gorko and Minstrel

time into their new home. As we had only seen a blurry picture of one of the cats we had no idea exactly what we were getting, so it was an absolute delight to look on whilst a big strong-looking beautifully patterned black and white cat (Minstrel) appeared from his cat carrying case, followed almost instantly by an incredibly stunning proper black cat (Gorko) coming out of his. After briefly greeting us they both disappeared

into a hole going in behind the toilet which we hadn't even known was there. Fortunately, several slightly fraught hours later, I managed to finally coax them out and we blocked the hole up so that better and more appropriate hidey holes could be found. Within a few short days, hidey holes had been abandoned for favourite sleeping spots on favourite chairs, and favoured vantage points on window sills, ledges and backs of chairs. Comfy laps were made use of in the evenings and clear demands for food, play and fussing were made.... our cats were truly settling in.

Gorko and Minstrel had been totally indoor cats with their previous owner who had lived in a flat in a city. But within just twenty-four hours when they began to look out of our bungalow windows at the garden and all the vast amounts of nature that surrounds us, they were clearly longing to get out. In fact, after just a few days, both cats began getting far too interested in trying to follow me and my husband out of the doors, particularly the back door. They would watch me longingly from the window whenever I went out into the garden. So, once a suitable amount of weeks had passed, and having discussed it fully with the Cinnamon Trust, appropriate vaccinations were given and the nail-biting moment of letting my fur babies out into the outside world on cat business arrived. As we had followed all advice from The Cinnamon Trust to the letter it all went incredibly smoothly, with both cats coming and going normally and naturally. They came back instantly to the calling of their names and to the sound of a tin of rattled cat biscuits. We had a cat flap fitted, and as soon as Gorko and Minstrel were able to go in and out at will they no longer were interested in using their litter trays, preferring their own choice of toilet somewhere in the great outdoors - this was a definite welcome bonus!

It has now been a good nine months since Gorko and Minstrel came along to join our family. They are so full of love and affection and have their own very distinct personalities, preferences and routines. It has been an absolute joy to have them in our lives and they even make our lovely home feel even more homely. Throughout this whole time The Cinnamon Trust have been amazing, by being totally supportive and in as much contact as is necessary via phone and email. It has been made simple and easy for us to do all that has been needed to settle the cats into their new life with me and my husband. As well as being completely devoted to the wellbeing and happiness of the animals that are under their protection, The Cinnamon Trust have also shown a complete interest in the wellbeing and happiness of both myself and my husband as lifetime fosterers for them. Dealing with The Cinnamon Trust has been nothing but a pleasure and I would highly recommend it to anyone wanting to get involved with supporting them in whatever capacity is desired. The Cinnamon Trust will always have my gratitude, respect and support for all they do."



In Worcestershire, **Sue McLLowie** is so proud of **Bella** and **Zebedi**:

"I am the proud fosterer of two beautiful Burmese cats, Bella and Zebedi, who came to live with my husband and I just over a year ago. We had previously been the owners of 2 lovely black and white moggies and after they died the house seemed very empty without a cat to greet us. I decided to consider fostering after hearing about the wonderful work of The Trust on a radio programme.

After the form filling and house inspection were complete, the day finally arrived

when the cats were delivered from their previous home. I did my homework on the breed and thought I knew what to expect but when they were released from their travel boxes, they just took my breath away, they were so beautiful! However, I soon realised that there was a lot more to them than just their good looks!



Bella and Zebedi

Their first day was spent thoroughly exploring the house as a pair, working together to push open doors that we had left closed. They climbed onto, into, underneath anything and everything they could including the fridge, wardrobes, cupboards, washing machine and the curtains!

Both cats love being fussed and on that first evening, when my husband and I sat on the sofa, we both had a cat each on our laps, both enjoying a lot of fuss!

Both cats have very distinct personalities. Bella is the brains of the outfit as she often leads and Zebedi follows. She is clear about what she wants and if we try to fuss her when she's not in the mood, she certainly lets us know! Zebedi, however, is always happy to be fussed and loves

being picked up and snuggled! We are very soft owners and let both cats sleep on our bed. We discovered over the winter months that they both love being under the duvet for that extra warmth! We also found that both cats enjoy night time visits to any guests we may have. Fortunately, most of our friends are feline friendly, so bedroom doors are often left slightly open!

Both cats are very vocal and love to tell us exactly what they are thinking in any situation! We have also realised that they both, (but especially Zebedi), will follow us and keep an eye on what we are doing around the house. This means we always have an audience when either of us shower, work from home, do the garden etc. In fact, as I write this, Bella is sitting on the desk and Zebedi by my feet, both purring!

The Cinnamon Trust have been great in helping us prepare for their arrival and in many ways since such as helping us get a cat flap, sorting out vet bills, cat sitting and general advice, and we have been very grateful for their ongoing support.

Pet ownership is such a privilege and I can honestly say we would not be without our feline companions. The love that they give is incredibly special and after a difficult day at work it is simply wonderful to come back to our two beautiful cats!"

Before sanctuary at Hillside.... **Anne Carter** (Warwickshire), just before she died, wrote to us:

"I have been a member of The Cinnamon Trust for many years, as I have always had a number of rescue cats and wanted to do all I could to ensure they would be cared for if I became unable to look after them.

A couple of months ago, my breast cancer returned and I am now terminally ill. My prognosis is not good, and I have only a short time left to live. I have 5 cats, 2 of which are very 'scaredy' cats who the vet said would not be re-homeable and suggested it may be better to put them to sleep, but this seemed so wrong to me. They are the daughters of Millie, one of my other cats, and the thought of them not being together was upsetting. To add to the problem I also have 2 young indoor tortoises.

I called The Cinnamon Trust and was prepared to be told that they would be able to help with some of my cats but not Bonnie & Bella. They said that they had to seek advice from the Chief Executive, Mrs Jarvis, and would get back to me. Within the hour, I got a call saying that it had been agreed that The Cinnamon Trust were happy to take all 5 of my cats to their sanctuary in Devon, and also my two indoor tortoises. I can't express the relief I felt when I was told this, to know they will be safe and looked after means so much. I didn't want my two lovely black girls put to sleep because they aren't cute and cuddly.

I now know I can die, knowing my dear animals will be safe."

And they are happy - read all about them in Hillside news....



Valerie Grace writes from West Sussex:

"When I first met Molly at the rescue centre just over 4 years ago, she was in a terrible state of neglect. She had recently arrived there from Ireland, where apparently she had been used for breeding. Her fur was long and matted, so much so that the fur on her head was hanging in her eyes and making them weep. She didn't smell very sweet either! When she first saw me, she wagged her tail and licked my hand. Her beautiful brown eyes seemed to say "please will you be my friend."



Molly settled in really well with me. After a much needed trip to the grooming parlour, she looked a different dog and you could see the true colours of her coat. She is a very friendly and loving dog with a very sweet nature. She loves lots of cuddles and all the attention she can get!

However, I have had problems with my mobility and am unable to walk Molly myself. Although I have help with walking her during the week, Molly didn't go out at the weekend. As I had been a member of The Cinnamon Trust for a while, I decided to ask for their help. They put me in touch with two lovely volunteer dog walkers, Paige and Jessica, who now come on a Saturday and Sunday to take Molly out for me. Molly made friends with them right away and loves going for walks with them.

As I live on my own with Molly, I can't tell you what a difference this help has made for both of us. Molly now goes out for a nice walk on Saturdays and Sundays. As for me, I am so grateful to Paige and Jessica for giving up their time to do this.

I want to thank The Cinnamon Trust for the wonderful work that they do to help people who are less able, such as myself, with their treasured pets. I am so glad that I heard about you!"



From Norfolk, **Liz Mann** wrote:

"I am writing to thank you all, and of course all The Cinnamon Trust volunteers in Holt, who have been so kind and supportive.

I have been a volunteer for a couple of years now, walking Teddy in Aylsham for Hazel. Hazel has a lot of mobility problems and can't move far, so she finds it difficult to walk Teddy, a Chihuahua/Yorkie cross. Teddy may be tiny, but he has bags of personality and fears nothing and no-one. I walk him once a week, and my own two Whippets, Tillie and Lou, and my old Whippet/Saluki cross rescue, Ringo, often joins in. Normally, my very keen Whippets chase most small and furry things, but Teddy stood no nonsense from the start and they all get along just fine now.

And then, quite unexpectedly, it was my turn to benefit from Cinnamon Trust volunteers. In September last year, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and had to go into hospital for 2 operations in November and December. So, a series of volunteers helped walk Ringo, Tillie and Lou for a week over each bit of surgery. I can't tell you how grateful I was, as 3 dogs (now 2 after I lost the 15 year old Ringo just after Christmas through kidney failure) are quite a handful for anyone. Although the 2 Whippets walk very nicely, there can be tense moments on a walk when cats or squirrels hove in sight. Then a tight hand on the lead is really needed.

So far so good, the cancer was caught very early and after radiotherapy this year I am back to walking my own dogs as well as Teddy, and feel privileged to be a part of The Cinnamon Trust, albeit in a small way.”



To every one of our 17,248 volunteers, thank you. Thank you for being there, for bringing love and sunshine into so many lives, every day. Thank you for being the best ambassadors any charity could have.



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

Philippa Simms (Renfrewshire) and **Christine Barley** (Surrey).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

David and **Christine Ruffles** (Sussex), **Paula Kettle** (Warwickshire), **John** and **Jackie Voaden** (Devon), **Christine Theobald** (Devon), **Margaret Macklin** (Hampshire), **David** and **Liz Noble** (Lincolnshire), **Annette Berry** (Surrey), **Wendi Wright** (Yorkshire), **Elaine Mellors** (Nottinghamshire), **John** and **Margaret Andrews** (Kent), **Linda Rowe** (Norfolk) and **Lorraine Isherwood** (Oxfordshire).

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

Ken Hopper (Lancashire), **Natasha Bennett** (Devon), **John Martin** (Kent), **Caroline Mitchell** (Lancashire), **Angela Beeken** (Norfolk) and **Vicky Kirkpatrick** (Hampshire).



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We had a great winter at Poldarves despite all the rain! One of the highlights was the squirrels enjoying a bag of walnuts, fresh from the tree and grown by Jill Polglase who lives nearby – clever lady! The joys of sitting in a huge bed of straw in a pig house and tickling an upside down Peppa Pig’s belly have to be experienced.... We had some lovely new coats to keep our ponies snug when they decided to venture out of the stables. The cats rarely ventured out – why bother when you can snuggle under a blanket in a cosy warm room and have any meal you wished served in bed? Some of the dogs love splashing in puddles, but not all! Most days we could get a lovely walk between the deluges, and the beach

beckoned on sunny days much to everyone's delight. Not least of the winter highlights was the striking white crow who often visited to share the chickens' breakfast! Sad losses added our own clouds. **Leo**, amazing little Poodle who never looked or acted his 21 years of age; sweet **Bobs** (16) Jack Russell; darling Collie **Bryher** (15) and two gorgeous cats **Panda** (16) and **Jess** (17).



Danny

And to make new memories, along came **Danny** (15) a loving, talkative, handsome Lurcher with the biggest, softest brown eyes. He gets himself into the most extraordinary positions on the sofa with those very long legs, but the favourite is upside down so you can tickle his tummy.... all day! He has long, loud and seemingly interesting conversations with Maisie Collie – we'd love to know what they're discussing! Without fail, he barks to wake everyone in the morning - it's breakfast time! Who needs an alarm clock? Danny loves his food but especially adores fish. Seconds, even thirds, demanded! He especially loves the beach and he always accompanies Maisie. Also, he has to have a rich tea biscuit at night or he will tell you off 'til he gets one. He's quite a boy!



Heidi

The sweetest and gentlest of little girls with an irresistible face perfectly describes **Heidi**. We had a party on Valentine's Day – it was her 15th birthday! She's very energetic and gets so excited at walk times – or, for her, running time! But come bedtime, Heidi likes to be tucked in under her blanket. In between, she does love a back scratch and she follows you around rubbing against your legs so you know she's there and would you please oblige! Liver treats are always welcome and fresh pot roast chicken dinners are an absolute favourite.



Sammy

Sammy (15) has also joined us. Very, very pretty and absolutely adorable with it, she's grown hugely in confidence over the months with us and she even can't resist a small bark when it gets too exciting! Sammy has a very waggy little tail and she uses it to great advantage on our walks. She loves to meet and greet any dog or person we come upon with a very happy, sunny "hello". She also likes to explore the gardens and always comes back with muddy paws so grooming is fun – when she's had enough she just walks off! Another upside down dog in bed, she's so easy going and chilled out anyone can cuddle in with her – the more the merrier, it seems!

Sandy and **Cindy**, both 13 years old, came as a pair and they certainly are. They really love each other and do everything together. Cindy is diabetic, doesn't at all mind insulin injections and comes quite happily, but always with Sandy by her side. They are both the sweetest girls, so easy to fall in love with them. They follow you around together. They sleep and eat together. In fact, we've never seen them apart. It's very, very touching. Even more so that they don't mind that Grebo (17) has decided she likes to be with them as well.



Sandy and Cindy

Grebo came with **Sheikh** (10), **Tuxedo** (12) and **Ginger** (12) but she clearly prefers the company of our 'twins'. A very happy, fluffy, cuddly girl who loves to have her chin scratched and really enjoys being groomed. She has been transformed by 'the twins' – she looks like a different cat! Her appetite knows no bounds so she's put on weight, which she needed to, and her coat has grown quite beautiful and she's so very loving.



Grebo

We think that Sheikh, Tux and Ginger must have been hogging all the food because whereas Grebo was skinny, these three are very comfortably covered! Sheikh is gorgeous, a really active, playful boy and very mischievous. He's always where he shouldn't be – like in the cupboard or up on the shelf where the biscuits are kept. He knocks them down to help himself and share with Tux and Ginger. He's a chatty boy and he twists around your legs until you sit down and have a cuddle, but then, with looks like that, he's always going to get his own way! A gorgeous, characterful cat!



Sheikh



Tuxedo



Ginger

Tuxedo is a big, beautiful girl who likes live cabaret! She loves to sit on a cat tree on the verandah and watch the dogs, Peppa Pig and pass the day with Tiger Lily – a beautiful little cat who has been here for nearly all of her 17 years and roams free when she feels like it. Tux is very partial to biscuits so she probably eggs Sheikh on to his antics!

Ginger is the biggest of all! He loves his food and will shout for more. On a cold, wet day he likes to cuddle up but if the sun shines, he will always find a sunbeam. He's a very cuddly boy who, as yet, has shown no tendency to explore – observing is more his thing, though he does quite like to play with a catnip toy. Warm spring sunshine may well change this narrative!

We can't wait to enjoy sunset walks on the beach, playing in the shallows, long balmy sunny days, ice lollies, paddling pools, picnics – idyllic!



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Christmas may seem long ago now, but we fondly remember all the fun and excitement that the wrapped presents gave. Shredded wrapping everywhere, toys and treats festooned across the floors, sofas and beds, happy grinning faces with bright, shining, excited eyes, wondering what would be revealed next. With the glorious aroma of the roasting turkeys filling the air, the whole day was full of festive joy and merriment. Finishing the splendid day off with a lovely walk for the dogs, snuggles beside the cosy open fire and settled for the night into a fulfilled and peaceful sleep.

We have donned coats and had beach walks, but on these occasions the weather did not seem to favour us and we often had to head for shelter when the heavens opened, but mostly they were short downpours and we were able to continue with our lovely walks.

We have had several frosty starts to our days, with crisp white grass crunching under foot; the dogs seem to love the newness of it. We layered up with warm cosy jumpers and ventured down into the fields, exploring new tracks left on the crisp grass by the various wild animals that we give a safe haven to. Some of the dogs cannot resist a roll in the frost, but rather them than me! The cats were more sensible and spent those times on the windowsills in the warmth of the sunshine, but with the cosiness of indoors, looking out in wonder.

We have had several deer visiting the fields, truly majestic animals, they watch us from afar and if they think we are getting a little too close they are off at speed. It is so lovely to think that they feel safe to be here.

We still have many Mr and Mrs Pheasants visiting for breakfast, we hope that they have worked out that it is a safe place to stay and will continue to reside here along with the many other visiting birds.

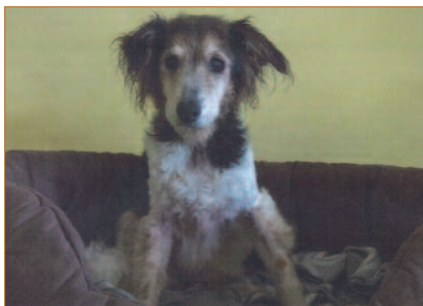
The clever, cheeky squirrels have been here, enjoying the nuts and seeds. Despite having their own feeders, they still access the bird feeders with ease, often by climbing and hanging upside down from the thinnest of branches, they are like fearless, miniature, well-trained trapeze artists!

Very sad times came to Hillside with the loss of **Bill**, Collie cross (15), **Tiger 2**, tabby cat (18), **Whiskey**, ginger and white boy (17), **Solo**, tabby and white (18), **Pascha**, Old English Mastiff (11½), **Bobby**, Westie cross (15½) and **Teasel**, tortie and white girl (20).

Lots of new arrivals have helped to restore our spirits. First came **Bailey** (10 years 8 months) a handsome little Scottie cross Cairn who loves to do things his way. A belly rub please - on his terms. Grooming - on his terms. Food – it's all delicious! Bailey loves to mooch around the gardens and despite losing his sight, he is more than able to navigate his way around the sanctuary with only minimum intervention. A happy boy who, in spite of 'his terms' loves to snuggle!



Bailey



Mollie

Mollie (17) Collie cross is a beautiful, unassuming little lady who rather likes the bed! She is a morning girl though, as first thing she runs and jumps for joy around the garden - she really has a spring in her step. On our walks she trots around happily and then likes to get back to snuggle in her favourite bed. Fresh cooked chicken is, without doubt, her favourite dinner.

Daisy (12) has also joined us. A beautiful, bouncy tiger-striped Lurcher. She is full of life and energy, she bounds around tossing toys up in the air. She gallops all over the fields on walks and all this expended energy makes for a terrific appetite, she loves all her



Daisy



Bandit

freshly cooked meals. She also loves to snuggle on the sofa and give you lots of nice kisses – she demands your attention with a steady one woof bark! And she loves to come around the sanctuary on last checks, we think she likes to know that all is well.

And then came the Carter Family – five cats and two tortoises! **Bandit** (18) is a very sweet little girl who loves to climb onto your shoulders at every opportunity. She is adventurous and likes to climb, also to find the sunniest spots both indoors and out. Bandit very much enjoys her food, her favourite being mackerel.



Ferdie

Ferdie (13) is a very handsome big boy with lovely long ginger fur who doesn't realise his real size as he squeezes himself into the smallest beds. He loves all his food and he mooches around from room to room to make sure he's not missing out on anything. Cuddles are not quite the thing, but head rubs? Now you're talking!

Milly (12) is a gorgeous, big, fluffy tortie who is quite shy at first, but once she knows you she loves a cuddle and she likes to watch the goings on from under the covers! She also very much enjoys her food.



Bonnie and Bella



Milly

Bonnie and **Bella** are sisters aged 11. They both love their food and like to sit on the windowsills behind the curtains and peek out to watch what is going on. They enjoy night time explorations and day

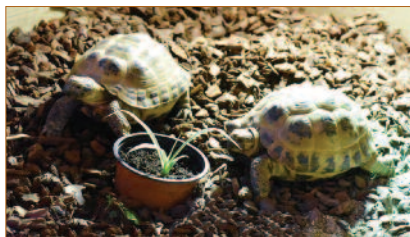
time bird watching in the garden. They are shy and reserved but we have high hopes for these two in the future!

The tortoises are **Smash** (Sash) and **Grab** (Mab) both 11 year old Horsefield Tortoises. We built a magnificent heated indoor multi-terrain enclosure for them and they quickly settled in. They love their twice weekly warm baths and they enjoy their freshly foraged leaves and grasses, and freshly prepared salad leaves. They enjoy the real live plants in their enclosure as well as a huge diversity of other delicious eats. We often have to dig to find them as they bury themselves in the substrate!

Also joining the cat family is **Olive** (15) a lovely big tabby girl who likes one to one time and cuddles. She loves her food and likes to explore the gardens. She's another who is quite shy at first, but come warm summer days we're sure she'll come into her element.

Sophie (19) a Birman cross is altogether different. She is absolutely beautiful, little, very sweet, affectionate and attentive and she has us all wrapped around her paws. She loves to climb into cupboards so we have to keep checking to make sure we haven't shut her in! She enjoys her food, especially fresh cooked chicken and fish and she does like to help 'dish up' at meal times.

We have three horses as well now. **Mojo** and **Barney** (Big Barney) came together. Mojo is a Welsh Section C Cob aged 21. A very handsome boy with a lovely good, even-tempered and unassuming nature. He likes to trot around the field with his friend Big Barney and enjoys a groom - which is a good thing because he does like a good roll! He adores his treat ball and is generally a joy to be around.



Smash and Grab



Olive



Sophie



Mojo



Big Barney

Big Barney (25) is a Thoroughbred and gorgeous with it. He's blind in one eye but he manages brilliantly. He also enjoys a good roll in the mud and, luckily, also likes to be groomed. He loves his food and he is very close to his best friend Mojo. These two melt your heart with their devotion.

Little Barney aged 12 gets on very well with his new friends and really likes to play with them. He's a Welsh Section D cross Arab – a good looking boy who is very sure and confident in himself and he makes it known! He likes things on his terms and who are we to argue? He also loves to roll and get as dirty as he can, but, he'll only be groomed when he wants to be! He plays for hours with his treat ball.



Little Barney

It's lovely to see these three in the fields.

With the winter walks soon to be behind us, we are all looking forward to springing into summer with lots of adventures planned; lakeside walks with packed picnic treats. Warm sunny beach walks with rock pool exploring. Forest trail walks, finding newly formed paths to explore. The cat and dog sensory gardens will be taking good shape, with lots of new herbs, grasses and textures and purpose-built cat climbing toys. An outside tortoise enclosure is being constructed and will be put to good use on warm, sunny days. We will see the return of the sprinkler and paddling pools to the gardens. The home-grown vegetables and salads will be prepared, served and consumed.

Homemade ice cream will again be on the daily treat list, with a few new flavours to try from our top secret recipes. The fruit trees will supply us with wonderful apples, pears and plums, all absolutely delicious and all used in our home cooked recipes, although the horses do prefer the apples uncooked. Looking forward to spending sunny afternoons with the chickens, exploring the fields and encouraging lots of foraging. New enrichment for the aviary, with

tubs and trays to grow plants and grasses for all the birds to explore and potted, leafed trees for the finches to sit in.....



Poetry Corner

Both of these will bring a tear, or more, so have your tissues ready!

First, from **Lisa Dower** (Buckinghamshire) who is lifelong foster mum to **Barney** and **Dougal**:

Pets Point of View

My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be painful for me. Remember that before you get me.

Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, entertainment and friends. I only have you.

Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice.

Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget.

Please don't hit me.

Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right foods, or I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is getting old or weak.

Take care of me when I get old. You too will grow old.

Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say "I can't bear to watch", or "let it happen in my absence". Everything is easier for me if you are there. Remember.... I LOVE YOU.



Now, this from **Myron** and **June Peacock** (Hampshire):

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me
And I'm not there to see,
The sun will rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me.

I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you;
And each time that you think of me
I know you'll miss me too.

But, when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand
That an Angel came and called my name,
And patted me with her hand.

I thought about our lives together,
I know you must be sad;
I thought of all the love we shared
And all the fun we had.

So, when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart;
For every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.



And Finally

As I write this, the country seems to be heading for some sort of lock-down due to coronavirus. None of us know how long this will last, or what events you've been planning for ages will be cancelled. More worrying are the thousands of dogs and their devoted owners who rely on our volunteers every day. Volunteers who, I know, will take whatever precautions they need in order to continue helping. You are all, volunteers and owners alike, so precious – keep safe, keep well and I hope and pray we all meet again in the autumn.

God bless, everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE

Founder and Chief Executive

