
NEWSLETTER

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Christmas 2021
Number 71

Dear Friends

I just couldn't resist this picture of sheer exuberance, a beautiful beach, the sea, all under a clear blue sky....



How lovely it's been this summer and **Lowen** sums it up more eloquently and emphatically than any words! Read more about him in **Catherine Burford's** volunteer view.

Once again, records have tumbled with regard to our busy-ness. One of the best aspects of all that we do is that we can turn every sad story into a happy ending and, I hope, a newsletter to cheer!



CT '100 Club

Winners who have each received £25 are: Apr: **Josephine Dew** (London), May: **Pauline Wilson** (West Sussex) June: **Mary Buckingham** (Dorset), July: **Mary Wynne** (Wiltshire), Aug: **Sheila Hine** (Lancashire) and Sept: **Vera Parry** (Anglesey). Forms for the new start are enclosed. If you pay by standing order and wish to continue, just send the forms back marked 'existing standing order' and we'll send you your new lucky number. We've decided to raise the prize money to £30.00 every month – but no extra cost to you!





Christmas Card

We are so excited! The idea of this card, 'Cinnamon Shepherds Watch Their Flock' has been 'sitting on the shelf' for nigh on two years and, at last, I was able to take the photos so that Linda Rush could work her magic. And work her magic she has – with a gold foil border and gold foil stars, it is spectacular! Here are the stars:

Catalogue

We have some great gift ideas and lots of new fishy treats for dogs and cats which have been tried, tested, approved and one is never enough!! Sadly, we haven't any new gift wrap this year, apparently it comes from China and there are problems with that.... We do have a limited supply of the really nice gift wrap from last year - we usually sell it at cost, but there was no Crufts this year!



Blue (11)



Jenny (17)



Sammy (16)



Vanja (11)



Dotty (14)



Maisie (13)



Teddy (9)



Dude (9)



Danny (16)



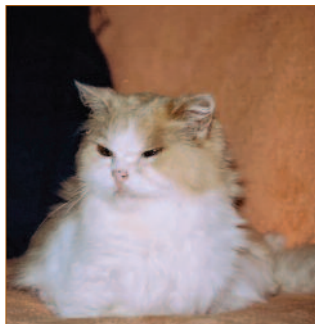
Archie (14)



Mitzi (12)



Zoe (10)



Fudge (14)



Tilly (19)



Archie (15)



Victoria (13)



Diesel (16)



Liam (2¹/₂), and Lewis (2¹/₂)

Fundraising Events

Rachel Burt (Northamptonshire) raised £220 with her ever-popular home baked dog treats – wagging tails all round! **Michael Druce** (Powys) and his wife raised £30 in lieu of sending Christmas cards, and **Lynne Warren** (Worcestershire) and her friends raised £100 in lieu of sending Christmas gifts. Due to COVID restrictions, **Liz Veasey** (Nottinghamshire) was sadly unable to hold her lovely Christmas wreath workshops but together with a neighbour, she made and sold wreaths from her driveway to raise £170. **Kaz Pringle** (Middlesex) celebrated her birthday and raised £125 in lieu of gifts. The team at **Tilehurst Veterinary Centre** (Berkshire) took part in a 20 mile relay walk and raised a terrific £556.25 – well done to you all! **Liz Hall** and the team at **Poole Crematorium** (Dorset) raised a stonking £10,000 by taking part in the ICCM Metals Recycling Scheme. **Debbie Kendall** (Buckinghamshire) has been brilliant again, raising £355 from the sale of her Enlightened Hound Christmas cards. **Christopher Grimshaw** (Cheshire) took part in a 5k run and raised £155. **Maggie Martin** (West Sussex), always a star, raised an incredible £1,331.65 with her sales. Also in West Sussex, **Jane Cundiff** raised £100 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Flo Croucher** (Somerset) raised £200 with the sale of her preserves, knitted items and bric-a-brac at her garden gate.



Annie

Judith, Laura and **Annie Dranfield** (Cornwall) have again grown plants and sold them from the garden wall to raise £211.50. **Gordon** and **Yvonne Hasler** (Devon) raised £23 with friends' donations for books. **Mary** and **Barbara Smith** (Kent) have been busy again, raising a brilliant £965.18 with their eBay sales and sale of home-grown produce. **Sandra Pridgen** (Lincolnshire) raised £100 with her annual Christmas cake bake. The team at **Minster Veterinary Practice** (North Yorkshire) raised £90 – the proceeds of their honesty tuck shop! **Jean Dearmer** (Hampshire) raised £100 in lieu of Christmas gifts. **Emma Burns** (West Midlands) raised £20 with a raffle. Another raffle, the team at **Orchard Vets** (Somerset) raised £113. **Louise Matlock** (London) helped Christmas celebrations go with a bang with her wonderful handmade crackers and raised £580. **Valerie Peacock** (Cornwall) has been selling her handmade facemasks again to raise £100. **Debra Thaine** and the team at **The Learning Centre** (Essex) raised £150 in lieu of Christmas cards. **Anne Elliott-Day** (Somerset) raised £20 with her sales of Christmas gift wrap. **Sylvia Burn** (Essex) raised £70 with her handmade greeting cards. **Karen Caddick** (Worcestershire) raised £200 from the sale of tote bags. **Lands' End Europe Ltd** (Rutland) run a program which rewards employees' volunteering with a donation to their choice of charity. Their employee, **Christine Townsend**,

chose us to benefit from this initiative and we have received £100. **Joanne Coffey** and the team at **Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition** (Leicestershire) chose us as their charity of the year in 2020 and raised £768.80 with their fundraising events including pumpkin carving and selling dog coats! **Jenny Cooksey** (West Yorkshire) raised £30 with the sale of her handmade cards. **Stella Good** and the members of the **Trefoil Guild** (Bedfordshire) chose us as their charity of the year in 2020 and raised £225 with their fundraising events. **Elizabeth Prosser** (Hertfordshire) raised £140 in lieu of birthday gifts. **Sara Morton** (Somerset) and everyone at **All 4 Pawz** have been brilliant again, raising £500 with their tombola. **The London Cat Clinic** raised £537 with their calendar featuring the Finest Feline Faces! **SEIB** (Essex) are part of the **Ecclesiastical Insurance Group** which gives employees the opportunity to nominate a charity to receive a gift from the company's charity initiative. **Sue Robb** chose us, and we have received £125. This is brilliant, the pupils of **St Andrew's CE Primary School** (Dorset) raised £178 with a sponsored run – well done. **Kate Hamilton** (Gloucestershire) raised £30 with her astrology readings **Jan Guerin** and **Anne Wall** (Buckinghamshire) raised £50 with a plant sale. **Paul Rayner** and the team at **Canley Cemetery and Crematorium** (West Midlands) raised a fantastic £5,000 by taking part in the national metals recycling scheme. **Melanie Ray** (Dorset) raised £120 with a jumble sale stall. This is stunning, **CVS (UK) Ltd** (West Midlands) chose us as their charity of the year in 2020 and with the support of their practices they raised an astonishing £22,000! Wow! **Barbara Borwell** and the congregation of **The Parish of Upper Stour** (Dorset) enjoyed a lovely Pet Service and raised £30. **Suzanne Hill** (Kent) had a book stall on her drive and raised £68.30. **Jenny Rice** (Norfolk) raised £20 from the sale of ceramic plant pots. **Alison Wheeler** (Essex) raised £130.51 on her stall at Monks Eleigh Dog Show and Fete. **Colin** and **Heather Stepney** (Dorset) together with their friend, **Donna**, raised £216.80 on their plant stall. **Manston K9 Society** (Kent) raised £320 at their Christmas Dog Show. **Swan School of Dog Training** (Buckinghamshire) raised £85 with their Christmas raffle. **The Andover and District Dog Training Society's** Open Obedience Show was sadly cancelled, a number of entrants decided not to reclaim their entry fee and send to us instead, we received £128. **Fleet & District Dog Training Society** chose us as their Charity of the Year and raised £182.60 with their raffle, bring & buys, quiz night, loan of equipment and their collection tin. **The Wonky Dog Club** (Shropshire) raised £78 with their Club walk. **Cheltenham & District Dog Training Club** raised £500. **Central Essex**



Alison Wheeler

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Dog Training Society chose us as one of their charities of the year and raised £140. **CHeWs Dog Training** (London) chose us as their Charity of the Year once again and raised a stupendous £4,012 with their quiz nights, raffles and annual dog show! **The Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain** (Lancashire) raised £100. **South Bucks Agility Club** sent us £150. **Welsh Terrier and Friends** (Cheshire) raised £200 with the sale of their fantastic Welshie calendars. **Barking Mad Dog Training & Behaviour Centre** (Norfolk) raised £43 with their collection tin and Christmas lights' switch on. **Clacton & District Dog Training Club** sent us £200. **The South East and East Anglian Tibetan Spaniel Society** raised £670 with their online dog show.

It's wonderful to see the shows and stalls starting up again to complement all the ingenuity and energy with which you've raised funds for us. Thank you all so much and do, please, keep it up!!

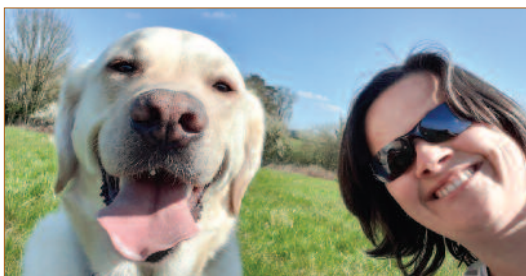


Volunteer Views

Kirsty Morris sends our first view from Hereford.

"I had wanted to volunteer for a charity that involved helping animals and people for a while but hadn't found the right thing. Then, I saw a post on social media about The Cinnamon Trust. I read all about the charity and instantly knew that this would be the perfect volunteering opportunity for me. I love dogs and I really enjoy helping people, so it seemed the perfect match.

Inde is 3 years old and is a Lab/Retriever Cross. He is a working Guide Dog, so he is a super special boy! His owner, Raymond, has some health conditions which means he is no longer able to walk Inde for his "Free Time" and needed some help. I started walking Inde at the end of November 2020. I help every Saturday and try to fit in extra visits when I can, as I really look forward to my time with Inde and I know that he does, too!



Volunteer Kirsty Morris and Inde

Upon my first meeting with Raymond and Inde, I knew instantly that this was going to work really well for all of us. Inde is a very friendly and happy boy, and we have quickly become friends. We walk for about an hour and a half each time as he has bundles of energy and loves to run around, we have recently been playing fetch with a

new ball which he also loves.... when he remembers where he dropped it!

It is really rewarding knowing that I am helping out Raymond, and that Inde is getting some fun time away from his working life as a Guide Dog. I make sure that he is happy and loved when he is with me, exactly the same as he is at home. The mental health benefits of being in the fresh air and out with a happy four-legged friend is invaluable to me, too.

I would recommend to anyone that has some spare time to volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust, it is so rewarding and something I wish I had discovered years ago!"



I love this! From **Karen Minto** in Somerset.

"If there was a prize for most coordinated mum and dog, then Sylvia and her Yorkshire Terrier, Jack, would surely win it! When I arrived recently to walk Jack, he was sporting a new striped number and so was Sylvia!

The smiles in the (socially distanced) photo say it all. In the four years I have known Sylvia through walking Jack, thanks to The Cinnamon Trust, we have shared many laughs, cakes and coffee, and I've lost track of how many times we have put the world to rights!

Jack is 9-years-old(ish) and he really is a sweet dog, though that is not to be mistaken for being a pushover. He has a keen sense of what he thinks is right, and I have been on the receiving end of 'the look' when I have arrived to walk him on a particularly wet day!



Sylvia with Jack

Jack and I have covered many miles of moor and coastal walks, and he has been a marvellous walking companion. We were more adventurous during lockdowns and found some spectacular walks. He is such a joy to be out with, and through him I have met so many more dogs, owners and found wonderful walks.

Last year he took on another (unofficial) role, of 'uncle' to our own new, rescue dog. As he walked out with her, he rose to the occasion and taught her everything she knows! Although her impressions of Jack are another thing

altogether, and are more occasions for great laughter for Sylvia and me!

I love the photo of Sylvia and Jack in their jumpers, it just sums up my 2 great friends, introduced to me by The Cinnamon Trust.”



Helen Holland in West Sussex writes:

“Having once owned a dog (Saffi) who we lost when she was 13 I know what joy they can bring. We have not felt able to have another dog as found the heartbreak too much to bear. We now have 2 cats, but I’m a dog lover 100% and when out walking with my husband I gravitate towards dogs and fall in love easily.

Before moving to Steyning, my neighbour got a rescue Springer Spaniel called Herbie. She and her husband both worked Monday to Friday, but she was part-time. I offered to let him out for a wee and she agreed and gave me a key. Well, it went further, and I asked if I could walk him. We had so much fun together; he was just the loveliest dog and we had a great bond. Sadly, he was diagnosed with cancer and, because he was in pain, my neighbours made the right decision to say goodbye. As time ticked on, a friend suggested I volunteer to walk dogs as I try to get out every day for an hours walk - walking with a dog is an extra bonus. So, I applied to The Cinnamon Trust and after checks I was accepted.



Buddy and Holly belong to Anne who, sadly, is housebound she hadn’t managed to get the dogs out for a walk for a number of months. I was a little worried about walking 2 dogs, but they are both just so gentle and absolute angels. During our first walk they seemed emotionless, a bit tubby, and Buddy stumbled quite a bit because of arthritis - but he doesn’t whine he just presses on.

A year on when I pull up in my car they both start barking and, when I ring the doorbell and Anne finds their leads, Buddy literally sings with excitement! I walk them for 45 minutes to an hour because I feel that’s enough. With Anne’s permission, I take their leads off when we are away from traffic and they are just so good. They sense when their leads need to be put back on and stand waiting. Buddy loves water and, whenever possible, he is straight in for a dip. Holly will if it’s hot, but not so keen in colder weather. They both greet other dogs gently, with lovely wagging tails.

Anne adores her dogs. They are her only company as she lost her long-term

partner just before Christmas who was in a care home some miles away. With Covid, she wasn't able to visit, and has no close family so she is very lonely. I take her up a roast every Monday with a home cooked cake and, if we have something for dinner I think she may like, I do enough for her also.

On Christmas Day 2020 I knew she was alone so I took her up a dinner, pudding, gifts for the dogs and a hamper, too. I turned up with my Christmas jumper and jingle bell hat on which made her smile. On Boxing Day she got cold meats with pickles and salad. I get much joy out of walking her two lovely dogs, but I find I enjoy spoiling Anne also. I've moved house now and live 20 minutes away but I won't stop waking them as they are a big part of my life now.

If, like me, you have spare time, love dogs and walking, why not do the two together and make a difference to dogs and owners. The Cinnamon Trust work closely with the owners which is so reassuring."



From the West Midlands **Kathy Jary's** view is rather special!

"I've been walking Eddie since November 2019. I had been looking for a way that I could help in my local community, and as I've always loved dogs, The Cinnamon Trust sounded perfect! I applied and was paired with John, who is so lovely and a wonderful owner to Eddie, but is sadly unable to take him out on walks.

Myself and 2 other brilliant volunteers, Natalie and Janet, walk Eddie so he gets 5 walks a week and he loves every minute of them; he's 8 years old now, but absolutely full of beans!

Eddie is the sweetest dog, and everyone that meets him loves him. Walking him is always the highlight of the day, and it has given me the confidence to explore my local area I never would have found so many beautiful fields and canals without him as a reason to go exploring. He's also helped keep me fit by being a wonderful motivation to get off the sofa, knowing he is there waiting for me whatever the weather!



Eddie and John have a brilliant relationship; one evening I arrived to walk Eddie, but John was feeling under the weather and the doctor had been called out. Eddie must have been able to tell something was wrong, as he is always SO

excited to go for his walks but on this evening he would not leave John's side. It was really amazing to see how in tune Eddie was with how John was feeling. Fortunately, the next time I visited, John was feeling better and Eddie was ready and raring to go again!

I enjoy walking Eddie so much that I always talk about it - one of my colleagues has now also signed up with The Cinnamon Trust and absolutely loves walking the dog she has been paired with, too!

An amazing charity!"



A salutary tale now from **John Dennison** in Shropshire:

"Oh, no! They've asked me if I'll walk a Staffordshire Bull Terrier! (Confessions of an opinionated dog-walker, by John Dennison).

We choose dogs to fit our self-image, don't we? Mine just had to be a Pointer – highly intelligent, friendly, placid disposition, athletic – a canine version of me, in fact! Equally the dogs we'd prefer not to be seen with – in my case those yappy little numbers like Yorkshire Terriers, Toy Poodles and Lhasa Apsos, or Staffordshire Bull Terriers with attitude!

Then, a dear friend died and left me a Yorkshire Terrier to look after! Matti and I spent a winter together in a log cabin in Lapland. Was he a one-off, or are all Yorkies such brilliant companions? Matti had all the heart and resilience of dogs twice his size.

Later, in a rash move, I married a lady who was NOT a dog-lover, barely dog-friendly. That's when I turned to The Cinnamon Trust. The first dog they found for me to walk was (the irony of it!) a Toy Poodle called Oscar. But there was nothing 'toy' about Oscar, apart from his size. Every day, we'd climb Carn Marth together, before he turned to fly back down the track, legs hardly touching the ground, ears flapping for extra lift, full of joy. As his owner, Christine's, cancer advanced, Oscar and I spent more and more time together until he was eventually re-homed with Christine's family. Thank you, Oscar and Christine for my fond memories of a Toy Poodle!

Walking Whisky, the scruffiest, gentlest German Shepherd, crossed with who-knows-what, had gone a long way to restoring my street-cred in the local village. Then, I was introduced to Charlie – one of those powder-puffy Lhasa Apsos. "No, no, he's not *my dog!*" was my quick response to "I see you've got a new dog". Charlie had been told, and now clearly believed, that he was the best 'looker'

around. He flaunted himself shamelessly in front of poor Angus, a local farm dog who could only dream of a brush or scented shampoo. And yet, in spite of myself, I found I was now becoming fond of a Lhasa Apso!

My biggest challenge, though, was yet to come. “Oh, no! They’ve asked me if I’ll walk a Staffordshire Bull Terrier!” My wife was as disapproving as I was of this ‘notorious’ breed. And the added “she’s not good with other dogs” didn’t help either. To cut a long story short, though, I ended up walking Leena for is it 5 or 6 years now? Leena learnt early on that I was quite relaxed with the other dogs we met, that we didn’t need to avoid them, and that, because I had the situation under control, she wouldn’t be called on to fend off a possible attack. I also became confident that she’d come when called, so she spent more time off the lead – something that she had never experienced before. She made friends with a puppy down the road who hadn’t been told that Staffies were meant to be aggressive. It was delightful to see her in the playful company of another dog – something she had been starved of for so long. Leena was an affectionate and loving companion to the very end. Following Joan’s death, The Trust moved quickly to find Leena a new home, and I had no reservation in assuring her new ‘owner’ that she would make him a faithful and very loving companion.

Moral: Don’t let a prejudice limit your opportunity to be pleasantly surprised!”



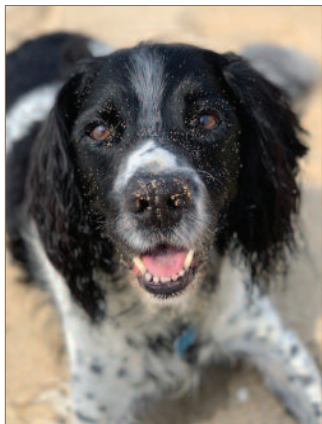
Some great pictures and a lovely view from **Catherine** and **Lee Burford** in Cornwall.

“Lee and I first volunteered with The Cinnamon Trust in January 2019. We had always wanted to have a dog of our own, but soon realised that with our current, busy lifestyle - both working full time jobs and often out in the evenings - we really weren’t able to consider this. What we could offer though, was time at the weekend and an outdoorsy lifestyle.

We would often walk past The Cinnamon Trust HQ in Hayle and realised that volunteering would provide the perfect opportunity of being able to form a bond with a dog, but not have the responsibilities that come with ownership.

We were introduced to Janet and her dog, Lowen, in April 2019 and asked to help after she unfortunately suffered a stroke. Lowen is a 12-year-old Springer Spaniel and a bundle of mischievous energy. He has come to know





our car and can be found eagerly waiting for us at the garden gate as we approach. He enjoys a lot of attention before bounding off and pulling us along behind him!

His main love is the water. He enjoys repeatedly jumping in to rivers and streams, but gets most excited when he realises that we're heading for the beach. If there are any children playing in the water, then there's only one way of getting him back home. wading in after him! Lowen loves to play fetch but has not quite grasped the point of returning the ball. Sometimes we have had to admit defeat as he clings

on to his prized ball all the way back home.

During lockdown, Lowen had the time of his life. The usual busy Cornish beaches were deserted and for the first couple of months, we were available to take him out every day. It wasn't just Lowen that benefitted from this. The ability to experience this freedom when so many were confined to their homes was a boost to both of us mentally.

We have built a great relationship with Janet, enjoying many a garden chat and hearing what antics Lowen has been up to next. One particular incident that stays in my mind was after one of our very first walks (before coronavirus was even heard of). I went in to Janet's kitchen to wash my hands and turned round to find Lowen with a kitchen carving knife between his teeth, running around thinking it was a game! Luckily bribery with treats can work wonders in such instances. No food is ever safe when Lowen is around, he can sniff out anything that might be remotely edible and poor Janet has to deal with the consequences! If he thinks he might be deserving of a treat, he will offer each paw and look at you in such a way until you give in to his cuteness. We feel completely manipulated! It's impossible to get annoyed with him when he runs up to you, tongue hanging out and so obviously very happy with life.

Having the friendship with Janet has been an added bonus to volunteering. We contact her via WhatsApp and have been impressed with her grasp of the emojis! We had so many great photos of Lowen last year that we made them in to a calendar for her as a Christmas present (and kept a copy for ourselves, too!).

If there was anyone considering becoming a volunteer but were unsure whether they could offer the time, I would say to just go for it and make that first step. There is absolutely no pressure to do more than you are able to, you just fit in the days and times that you can and the rewards for everyone are well worth it."

Don and **Chris Wing** in Devon write:

“I have been a Volunteer for The Trust since June 2011 and have met lovely owners and felt privileged to walk their gorgeous dogs. There haven't been many because I've been lucky to stay with the same owners and dogs for many years, usually until their personal circumstances change. My husband, on retirement in 2017, also became a Volunteer. This was so there was always one of us to walk the dog and not let any owner down. Thankfully, this is very rare as we tend to dog walk together.

When the first lockdown happened in March 2020, we were very pleased to be categorised as keyworkers so we could continue our dog walking. However, for the first 6 weeks, we did refrain from walking to ensure we had no COVID symptoms. During that time we purchased our own leads and plenty of poo bags as well as a lot of sanitiser. We continue to carry out this practice to this day and will do so for a long time yet.

After those 6 weeks, what a joy it was to see the owners again (on the doorstep at a safe distance) and the very excited dogs! Both the owners we walk for were pleased to see us too, especially as they are both very vulnerable and were subject to shielding! Moreover, the fact that we could get out of the house due to volunteering for The Trust also helped both of us get through what has been an awful time for everyone.

This is one of the dogs my husband and I walk. He's Gryph, the Griffon (yes, I know what you're thinking but he was named before his owner knew he was a Griffon!) who lives near Griffon Way (you couldn't make this up!). When we had the email in July 2017 asking for help to walk him, we were already walking one dog once a week and another 3 or 4 times a week so not a lot of time for other things but, in the end, we said we would cover one morning a week for a short time. Soon after, circumstances changed for the dog we were walking once a week and here we are, 4 years later, with Gryph and his owner now part of our life.



When we originally looked up what a Griffon was, we found pictures of small, Terrier type dogs but when we met Gryph found he is a mixture and definitely not a toy breed of dog - his mother was a Collie! He is 15 this year, always so excited to see us and still strong, stubborn and energetic, although in certain weathers, his hips make him 'waddle' a



little. We walk him usually on a Monday morning and he likes to follow a set walk around where he lives. We do try to deviate and there are many battles of wills, but all I can say is neither myself nor my husband win! As his owner got him as a puppy whilst living in France, Gryph still responds to his owner when she speaks French to him! One clever dog!

There are two other Trust volunteers who walk Gryph, so we decided to start a WhatsApp group at the start of the pandemic in order to stay in touch, with the hope that we could meet face to face at some stage. This has since been nicknamed 'Gryph's Girls' and, as well as keeping in touch, it enables us to cover each other in cases of ill health, holidays, appointments, etc. rather than having to bother contacting The Trust. Gryph's owner laughingly refers to me as Mr G's social secretary because I tend to be the one who talks to our group to arrange cover, vet appointments, order tablets and book the hated visit to the groomers. These photos are before (with ducky) and after the visit in May 2021 and we all tell him it was worth it to look extra handsome! He is such a character and we all love him."



A fun view (and a great picture) from **Gordon Sayle** in East Sussex:

"I heard about The Cinnamon Trust from a friend who volunteers. I thought it would be the perfect way to combine my love of animals and also give back to the community after what has been a very tough 18 months for some people.

The process to become a volunteer was easy and quick and it wasn't long before I was asked to walk Ben, a Jack Russell/Yorkie cross. Ben has older fur parents who struggle to give him the daily walks that he needed, so I agreed to meet him. His owner, Carol, was concerned that he wouldn't go with me and was surprised when he came willingly, jumped in the driver's seat of the car and wouldn't budge! Our first walk was along the seafront in Hastings - lots of new smells and places to explore! I dropped Ben off and arranged to walk him 3 times a week going



forward. I have 2 pugs, Lily and Percy, and I suggested that we walk them all together, along with my mother in law's giant Pug, Tig. We affectionately call this group 'the grumble'. Carol told me that he loved Pugs, so that sealed the deal!

I picked Ben up and met up with my wife and mother in law and the grumble and we wandered down to the seafront with coffee for us and treats for them. They all

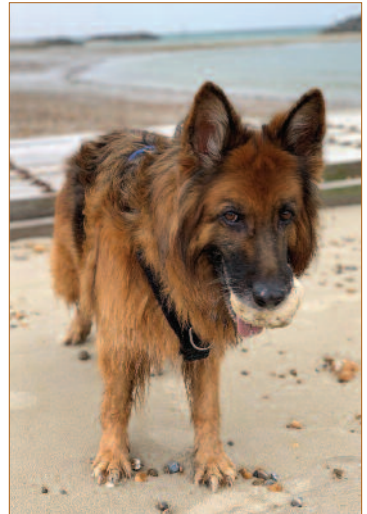
got on well, so Ben was made an honorary member of the grumble! My wife couldn't resist getting a picture of them all together after enjoying their treats. They have walked together a few times since and Ben has popped into our house whilst waiting for the Pugs to get ready. He feels like part of the family already."



To West Sussex now and **Michelle Beckett.**

"I moved down to the Bognor area in September 2018 and in November I started volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust. I have always enjoyed voluntary work, it helped me get out and about in an area new to me and with work I do not have time to own my own dog.

Quizzy's owner lives just a block from the sea, my happy place. I work with animals everyday but have not spent a lot of time with German Shepherds. They are a very loyal breed and Quizzy took to me very quickly, to the point now she will sit in the porch and whine when she is expecting me. Even when I moved to buy a house which is further away, I still have continued to go and walk Quizzy because I love my time with her.



Quizzy and I enjoy our walks down to the beach, especially when the tide is out and there's lots of sand to walk on. Quizzy likes to run in and out of the sea, whatever time of the year, and she is always wanting to carry something in her mouth or throw something around. Many a time I have been splattered with wet sand when she's run around shaking seaweed about. You would not know she has recently turned 10 years old.

During COVID furlough time, as a single person living on my own, I walked Quizzy 2 or 3 times per week. This helped me during a very tough time and meant Jean also had some human contact on days when her family (who were working with the public) could not visit. Quizzy is a part of my life now, I make time to walk her once a week and I look forward to her happiness when I turn up - and our walks by the sea.

The Cinnamon Trust is a fantastic charity that helps so many people and animals and is rewarding to volunteer for. They are fantastically set up to check in on you regularly - you get terrific support as a volunteer and I highly recommend them as a charity to volunteer for."

Lesley Andreassen in Devon writes:

“I have been a volunteer puppy socialiser for several years now but when our last dog ‘graduated’ we decided to have a break from having a full-time dog for a while. Inevitably I missed it.... not just having a dog in the house, but also the companionship out on walks. I heard about The Cinnamon Trust through one of my fellow socialisers and decided to apply to be a dog walker. At around the same time, Covid-19 struck and I found myself working from home, so was able to be much more flexible.



I was soon matched with a lovely 7-year-old Cockerpoo called Dolly and her owner, Anna, who lived literally around the corner. We met in the park a couple of times so Dolly could give me the once over – I’m happy to say she approved and then I was on my own.

At first, Dolly was a little reluctant to say the least – Anna hadn’t been able to give her the long walks she was used to for some time, so she had put on a bit of weight and got used to a pretty leisurely life at home. However, she soon started looking forward to my visits and greets me with a very waggy tail and a game of ‘paw’ (over and over again!).

It’s fair to say Dolly takes things at a more leisurely pace than the pups I am used to training but I love taking her out – even in torrential rain which certainly doesn’t bother her. We are lucky enough to have woods with a beautiful river locally and that is our favourite walk. We now head there 3 times a week for about an hour – she particularly loves the river and would happily sit in it forever!

Anna and I often have a chat before and after our walks and, although it is early days for us, we have become firm friends. A bonus is that while walking by with Dolly, I’ve got to know her gardening neighbours who have already given me loads of plant advice and supplied me with some cuttings!

The Cinnamon Trust is an absolute winner for me – it allows me to get to know and walk a lovely dog, make new friends (not just Anna and her neighbours, but all the dog walkers I see out and about) and get some exercise while doing it. I’d recommend this to anyone.”



Malcolm Fretwell in Bedfordshire writes:

“I have been walking Monty for his owner, Margaret, for just over 2 years. I clearly remember our first meeting. The entrance to Margaret’s home is on the side of the house so I had to go through the front gate to get to it. I knocked on the front door and heard a loud bark. A moment later, a giant dog appeared around the rear corner of the house heading straight for me at full speed; and went straight to my hand in which I was holding a treat, sniffing it with great interest. That sums up Monty’s character, a big friendly giant of a dog who is happy to meet everyone, especially if you have a treat!



He is a very handsome boy and moves with a grace that belies his size. I’m a keen photographer and he has become one of my favourite ‘models’. I am pleased to be able to capture these memories for Margaret. He is now 10 years’ old but still has a puppy side which means he believes he can still run around with the younger dogs, but then suffers for it later. Something common to many of us middle aged males!

At the beginning of May this year Margaret had a small accident which meant she ended up in hospital. As well as being a dog walker for The Cinnamon Trust, I am also a short-term fosterer, so Monty came to stay with us until Margaret was ready to return home. We had recently started to long-term foster a Terrier/Poodle mix for the RSPCA who we walked with Monty and they got on well together.

We were pleased that while he obviously missed Margaret, Monty settled in well with us quickly - probably in large part because he already knew us and he had our other foster dog for company in the house and on walks. We discovered that Nicky, his other Cinnamon Trust walker, lives close to us so she was able to maintain contact with him and would come to our house on Thursdays to walk him.

I was already a home-based worker before COVID. My working day involves online meetings and delivering training sessions. Both dogs would usually sleep while the meetings were happening, but came to recognise my tone of voice when I was coming to the end of a meeting. They would appear next to me immediately the call ended; the Terrier/Poodle mix to be stroked and Monty, with his favourite tug of war toy in mouth, demanding I grab the opposite end.

Thankfully, Margaret was able to return home at the beginning of June with Monty following shortly afterwards. We have now returned to the previous walking routine, and I look forward to this continuing for a long time to come.”

And this is from **Gilly Bowden** and **Tim Stubbs** in Cambridgeshire.

“Having signed up with The Cinnamon Trust a few years ago for dog walking, short and long term fostering, Amber is my 10th Cinnamon Trust dog.

We recently sadly said farewell to our littlest Cinnamon Trust pet, Toy Yorkie Sally. We'd been long term fostering for 3+ years so were feeling the 'empty home' syndrome. So, when the urgent call came through to help with short term fostering, we were delighted to be able to answer this emergency. After the call from Head Office, we went to meet the ambulance within 20 minutes and arrived just before Amber's owner was rushed off to hospital.



Amber hopped in our car with her bed and soon settled in, making herself at home and enjoying our garden and lovely walks. And ooooh she LOVES everyone! She also likes belly rubs and cuddles! She is a real sweetie.

We kept in regular contact with The Cinnamon Trust staff, for updates on the wellbeing of Amber's owner and to pass on news about Amber for her owner, David. The Cinnamon Trust even printed a photo of Amber to send to the hospital for David.

We wait to hear the next steps and are encouraging all our dog friends in the area to sign up and volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust to walk Amber when/if she returns back to her own home.”



Frank Steinheimer in Warwickshire says:

“Having had our dog for 5 years, my wife suggested we sign up as volunteers for The Cinnamon Trust, which I did with my daughter in April 2019. After a couple of weeks, Sherry contacted us to walk a Labrador cross called Barney (9 years old). Coincidentally, we have got a Labrador cross rescue dog ourselves!



So, we went to see Barney. On opening the door, Barney gave us a friendly greeting and we were surprised by his size! Our dog can walk underneath him more or less without touching his belly. They got on really well together and always want to explore and sniff together.

Barney is such a gentle giant and is such a lovely, friendly dog. We always get compliments when we take him out. He is very young at heart and likes his walks.

Last year his owner, Alan, had to go to hospital and we had the pleasure fostering Barney. We had so much fun with him and before you ask, yes it was easy to take him back, as we walked him again a couple of days later. It felt really good to help and The Cinnamon Trust was really supportive on organising this with us. They will support with money, advice and anything required during a foster.

It is such pleasure and fun to spend time with Barney. So much so my son is now signing up to The Trust and I also recommended The Trust to a friend who has signed up already!

Especially in these so difficult times, to give something back is such a wonderful feeling. Please consider signing up. You won't regret it"



Caroline Spriggs writes from Somerset.

"I have been a Cinnamon Trust volunteer since 2004 and have walked and fostered numerous dogs over the years. My parents live with me and are a great support when I am fostering. Just before last Christmas we were looking after Jim and Missy, two beautiful Staffordshire Bull Terriers, for the third time while their owner was in hospital.

Missy is completely smitten with my dad and follows him like a shadow. She spends most of her time cuddling up to him in the conservatory while he watches television. Jim likes to stay in the living room with me and my mum, giving us lots of kisses throughout the day. Jim enjoys playing ball in the garden and both dogs love running along the beach. As they are used to sleeping on their owner's bed, mum and dad let them sleep on theirs - waking up on the edge of the bed with the dogs happily snoring away in the middle!



When they returned home to their owner it was lovely to witness the happy and rather tearful reunion. Through volunteering we have all gained so much, knowing we have helped people and their pets stay together. The love we have received from the dogs we have walked or fostered has given us so much pleasure and I feel privileged to be a Cinnamon Trust volunteer."

And this is from **Michelle Clough** in Devon:

“I arranged to collect Gin Gin for a week and ending up falling in love. I was told he’d be very talkative, would want a window seat but wasn’t a lap cat.



I know cats love boxes, so when I got a delivery for hedgehog food with the word CAT printed on, I thought, perfect! I put a lovely blanket in it and put it next to the heater as we live in a cold stone cottage. It was his favourite place to sleep.

He quite enjoyed the window seat. The cottage we’re in faces a field with horses, sheep and lots of dog walkers, not many cars. He loved to watch the world go by and the dog walkers liked to chat to him as well.

As soon as I’ve sat down and pulled the cushion onto my lap for him, he comes along and parks himself! He loved lots of scratches and attention. He likes his food; I gave him dry food to supplement

his pouches and, of course, some treats. His favourite treat was corned beef! Whenever I went to the fridge he let me know he wanted a little piece.

I was told he would need two litter trays but he was been very happy with the one as I cleaned it every time I saw he had used it.

He surprised us by not wanting to go upstairs as I was told he liked sleeping on the bed. I guess he is not used to stairs so never bothered to go up to the bedroom, but was very happy to venture into the kitchen via 4 steps.

He has been a pleasure to have. Thank you for letting us foster such a lovely well-mannered, gorgeous boy.

I’m taking him home with the box, bag of litter and his yellow cushion as I’m sure Sarah would like a lap cat!”



Julia Possener, her family and **Bouncer**, all in Lancashire, have been camping....

“We took our long term Cinnamon Trust foster dog Bouncer camping this May bank holiday weekend from Lancaster to North Derbyshire. Bouncer loves car

journeys and all the smells out the window. He had his own sun shelter and he loved it! Bouncer is a Chinese Crested Powder Puff and I walked him for his owner as my first volunteer role. His owner had had Bouncer since a puppy, but in later life had become very poorly.



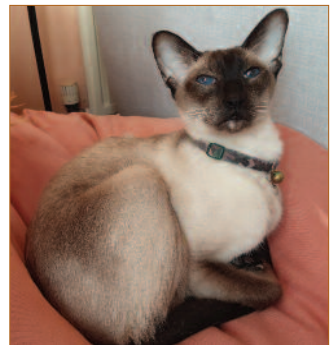
It gave his previous owner tremendous comfort to know Bouncer was going to be loved and cared for by The Cinnamon Trust and that she knew where he was going to live. I carried on walking Bouncer until his owner passed away, so they could spend as long as possible together. When the end came, Bouncer came to live with me and my family on a long term basis.

He has brought us all so much joy including my own elderly mother who sadly passed away earlier this year. She had spent all her life fearful of dogs until she met Bouncer! He was also poorly himself last year and in severe pain with his neck. With the help of The Trust and, in particular Sarah Owen, Bouncer had significant surgery. He was very brave and followed all the orders of the vet following the operation. It was a complete success and has given him his bounce back.”



Hannibal is a cat who appreciates fine culture as **Jo Swift** in Devon explains:

“We had planned for a quiet Christmas in the midst of the pandemic storm, with no visitors, no family and, to be honest, not a lot of fun. Then we received a call from Debbie at The Cinnamon Trust asking if we were interested in fostering Hannibal – a 10-year-old cat whose owner had sadly passed away. Initially I made a weak attempt to put my foot down on the grounds that we are now encouraging birds in the garden, but Debbie explained he is an indoor cat. While she spoke, I found her email with a picture of Hannibal gazing out of the screen with the confidence of an emperor, telling me our home was his destiny. So, by the time my husband came home, he had little choice in the matter!



Hannibal joined us in late November, and after a day or two exploring his surroundings quickly began communicating and establishing a trusting bond with us, his new servant friends. He let us know he sought a playmate – someone

skilled with toy mouse on stick, and hide and seek. We learned from Debbie that his previous mum had no TV but wall to wall classical music, which Hannibal also loved, so we were already putting together soundtracks before he arrived! Surprisingly, we discovered he relaxes and falls asleep to a rousing Beethoven in preference to smooth classics.

Between the three of us we had a lovely, loving Christmas with plenty of treats, games and cuddles. We dozed and relaxed in front of the fire, and Hannibal slept the night in his favourite sleeping spot, under the duvet with us. Offering a forever home to a cat who has previously lived ten years with a loving companion is a huge privilege and honour. In losing someone special, we take with us aspects of their nature and spirit, and cats are no exception. Thus in befriending Hannibal we have, in some small way, got to know his previous mum and we treasure this connection. No coincidence, then, that we are now completing a short online course in classical music!"



This is just lovely from **Denise** and **Glen Read** in Essex.

"Dizzy first came into our lives about 4 years ago when I first volunteered for The Trust. Along with 2 other dogs locally, I used to walk Dizzy once or twice a week in line with other walkers taking their turn. From the first time we were introduced there appeared to be a special bond. This was verified by Wendy, her mum. She said to me on numerous occasions that Dizzy was different around me than she was with the other walkers, especially when I arrived to pick her up.



As Wendy's health deteriorated and she had more frequent visits to the hospital, The Trust asked me if I could look after Dizzy so we have had her a few times for a sleepover! As it started to become apparent that Wendy's condition was terminal, her main priority was what would happen to Dizzy when she could no longer look after her. Wendy spoke to The Trust and they put her mind at rest. Both The Cinnamon Trust and Wendy knew that I adored her and I was asked if I would take Dizzy when the time came! How could I say no? I just had to clear it with my husband, but I knew there wouldn't be any problems - he too adored Dizzy, as she did him!

Toward the end of Wendy's life she could no longer care for Dizzy, so she came to us, but every night we would FaceTime so that she could see and hear what Dizzy

had been up to. Sadly, Wendy soon succumbed to her illness, so the process of long-term fostering started through The Trust. This coincided with what was to be a worrying few months for Dizzy, who also had some health issues, both requiring major surgery!

Almost as soon as we took her in full time she underwent a hysterectomy which was a risk at her age; she was almost 12 at this time. Thank goodness The Trust paid all the vet bills! Having got over this amazingly, a few months later I started to feel several lumps. The vet confirmed that they were tumours and would have to be removed. Again she had surgery and made a full recovery.

In a few days she approaches her 15th birthday. She continues to defy all odds. When out for a walk people are amazed, everyone thinks she is almost half her age! She is the sweetest natured dog I have ever known and we were always cat lovers, but Dizzy has completely taken over our lives, enriching it beyond belief. She is thoroughly spoilt and loves her special diet of chicken breast and white fish. She eats better than us, especially considering she only has 2 teeth!

Every time someone comes to the door she assumes they are there to see her! She has a bed in the conservatory, dining room and lounge as well as her shared one upstairs. Whether we have her for another week, month, or fingers crossed a few years, she has left a mark on our hearts that will be with us until our dying day. Who would have thought when I volunteered for The Trust after speaking to a friend on holiday who was already a registered walker, that this gorgeous Yorkshire Terrier would come into our lives and have the impact that she has.

Early in 2020 we had a few days in Cornwall and went to see some of the team at head office in Hayle as several of them knew Dizzy's story and were dying to meet her, she loved it as they did her. We were also extremely honoured to be invited to spend an hour at Poldarves Farm Sanctuary. What a place! We absolutely loved it and cannot praise the team there highly enough. This was somewhere that we didn't know about and, had it not been for Dizzy coming into our world, we never would have! For that, and all the amazing work they do, we cannot thank or speak highly enough of The Cinnamon Trust."



Diane Barlow in Cambridgeshire remembers **Sammy** and introduces **Clarity**.

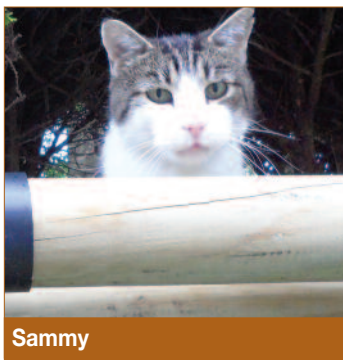
"In the spring of 2009, I was contacted by The Cinnamon Trust, to ask if I could foster a male cat called Sammy who lived not so far from me in Ely; sadly his owner had recently died.

A few days later he arrived. He was a beautiful cat, with tabby and white markings.

By the evening he had investigated all the house, and 'sussed out' his comfy places.

I never knew his actual age, but the vet guessed he was around 5 years old.

He soon settled me into 'his routine' and from early on I could see he was very much an outside cat, he certainly did not like being housebound for the first few weeks.



Sammy

When Sammy was allowed out into the garden, he showed me what a great climber he was, up the trees in my garden, over fences and onto my neighbour's garage roof. Sammy wanted it known that he was the new kid on the block and caused issues with some neighbouring cats that cost The Trust some hefty vets bills! It was decided that in order to restore harmony within our neighbourhood and to avoid any more angry knocks on the doors from my neighbours, Sammy had to be 'contained' within the garden!!

It was decided by The Trust that they would put up 'roller poles' erected on top of our fencing. The firm who undertook this venture spent quite a few days getting it all erected and on the fourth evening they left, saying "now, Sammy is quite secure and cannot escape!!!" The fitters had not long left when I went out into the garden to inspect their handiwork - only to find Sammy on the other side of the roller poles hanging on by his claws, his expression!"and you were saying?" He also managed to escape by scaling the very sharp, prickly Pyracantha tree against my neighbour's garage and onto her roof! The company could not believe it and I think Sammy taught them a thing or two about the failings of their system. He should have got commission really.

As the years passed Sammy became more content with his own territory, also perhaps feeling his age! He stopped trying to break out of the garden and settled into old age gracefully (sort of)!

Finally in the spring of this year Sammy's health caught up with him, and he became very poorly. So by mutual agreement it was decided for Sammy to be put to sleep by the vet that had looked after him over all the years. In spite of all the COVID restrictions, I was still able to hold him on my lap in the vet's small garden while he was put to sleep. I will always be grateful for that.

His life with me was a series of adventures, there was never a dull moment and I like to think he enjoyed a good quality of life, knowing he was loved so much. He

certainly left a huge Sammy size hole in all our hearts; he was a very special boy.

I am so very grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for all their support of Sammy, just knowing they were at the end of the phone was a huge help.

And now part 2.

And now I have another little feline companion called **Clarity**, fostered for The Cinnamon Trust. She is 14 years old and a very different temperament; at the moment quite a nervous girl, but gradually settling in. In spite of her age, she flies around the house, but is also quite content just to stay in the garden and not climb!!



In the last week she has felt brave enough to come and sit next to me on the recliner chair on the leg bit! So, I am just letting her 'do it all in her own time' as she had only ever known one owner, who sadly had recently died. Being moved from the one home you have ever known to a strange home and 'carer' takes more than a bit of getting used to, but she is a very sweet and gentle girl. A very different character to Sammy, but they are all different aren't they?

It is nice to have another little companion in my life.”



Gladys lives with her brother **Stanley** and **David** and **Ann Bawtree** in London; she has many talents and she wrote to us:

“Dear Everyone at Cinnamon,

My brother Stanley and I are wondering how you are faring in these changed times. The staff have often spoken fondly of you and are hoping very much that you are well.



Life here has not changed much here with this COVID thing. I cannot get to Music College of course, but I practise my scales and coloratura almost as soon as I awaken, and then at frequent intervals throughout the day until I fall into bed with the staff at night time. I have recently conquered 'The Queen of the Night' from the Magic Flute and am currently at work on 'The Russian Nightingale' by Alexander Alyabyev. It is quite delicious.

Stanley continues his DIY, checking daily on the edges of the fitted carpets to

investigate where they are coming loose and dislodging a few threads to mark the spot ready for repair. He, too, is quite exhausted by bed time. He likes the pillows whereas I prefer to nudge one of them into the foetal position, making a draft proof area for nestling-in. Although I am still of dainty build, I have discovered a way of making myself very heavy; positively immovable, in fact.

We have managed to send the staff off to have the first of their vaccinations. They were very well behaved and did not struggle or howl at all. They quietly caught the number 13 up to Lords Cricket Ground and were gone from their duties here in less than two hours.

Stanley and the Staff join me in hoping that you and your good work thrive.

With our best wishes,

Yours sincerely, Gladys Bawtree (Miss)”



And from Devon, a fabulous (you’ll see why!) letter from **Alfie**:

“Good day to you all and woof woof to my friends! I have lived with **Steven** and **Karen Smerdon** for a year now and what a year busy year it has been! My long-term carer is writing this as I am off to work with Steve. My name is Alfie, I am a 7 year old Sheltie.

Here is a snippet of my day....

First off, I now have to endure a daily brush and comb of my coat. I have been kitted out with a high-viz jacket for the rain and to make sure I can be seen clearly around the farm - very hot on health and safety we are! Next, I try to find the ginger cat Tom, also called Tom Tom. I terrorise him every day, he is not fussed about me, but I bark at him anyway. He lives in a field shelter, sometimes I drink his water and monitor him through the window.



Then Steve and I go out onto the farm and first thing I do is visit a local celebrity and our next door neighbour; his name is Colin and he is an alpaca. He tells me that he is famous because he appeared in The Cinnamon Trust newsletter, front page no less! He could not believe it when I told him I came from The Cinnamon Trust; what a coincidence! After my morning chat with Colin there is work to be

done on the farm and Steve relies on me to give him a hand. So, I hop in the tractor, and off we go! I like to ride in the bucket thing in the back which always makes Steve laugh. I love jumping into things and hitching a ride, but my favourite is when Steve gives me a ride in the wheelbarrow. Its hard work on the farm but we do have fun.

It's been a day of rest today for all of us and we have been to the seaside for my walk and an ice cream. Another great day, but I'm feeling a little sleepy now and my afternoon siesta is calling, so I am signing off now. Alfie."



Sue is a very much loved little dog living in Yorkshire. Her story begins with a view from **Karen Boyce**....

"I'm a lifelong animal lover and currently have a dog, 3 cats, a tortoise, a bearded dragon and 2 goldfish. All through my childhood people kept telling me I'd have a menagerie and I guess they were right! Having worked as the Librarian for Compassion in World Farming, which is concerned with improving the welfare of farm animals, I became aware of other animal organisations and always thought The Cinnamon Trust sounded wonderful. With the kids now being at school I decided that this was the ideal time to start my volunteering career and signed up.

In March I was asked to foster a long-haired Jack Russell called Sue. Her owner Brian was very poorly and had frequent hospital stays. Christine her dog walker from The Cinnamon Trust usually had her but on this occasion she was away so I stepped up and I'm glad I did.



Sue is a smashing little dog and we didn't hesitate to take her as a short-term foster. Sue settled in amazingly well and the menagerie accepted her comical way of showing them affection and she was a real treasure to have around.... until she discovered our tortoise, Tristan. Tristan didn't help himself either as he likes to be boss and puts all our pets in their place (he chases the cats until they take refuge on furniture), but this just fuelled Sue even more. Luckily, she was able to go back to her owner Brian.

Volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust is so much fun and very rewarding and often in unexpected ways. I've enjoyed getting to know the owners - And, in Sue's case, I've become really good friends with Brian her owner and some of his family members.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's to be more kind, thoughtful, helpful and considerate to others. Time truly is the most useful thing you can give and making a positive difference to someone is the most precious gift anyone can receive."

.... continues with **Christine Saunders'** view....

"Sue is a delightful dog, affectionate and full of character. I began walking her twice a week during the first COVID lockdown in spring 2020 and enjoyed my regular chats with Brian - a lovely man with a great sense of humour.

I was very sad to hear of Brian's illness and his physical difficulties at home (despite lots of family support) so I was more than happy to help out by taking care of her when Brian was admitted to hospital. As Brian's illness progressed Paula (Brian's carer) and I made sure that Sue visited him in the hospice so she could give him much-needed comfort and cuddles.

In Brian's last days we knew how important it would be for him to say his final goodbyes to Sue and were grateful that, after some negotiations (due to COVID), Sue was allowed into Brian's room to spend some special time with him. I think all those present were deeply touched by the love between them.

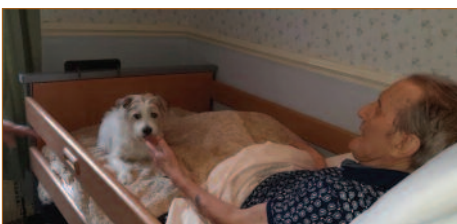
I realised, having had Sue to live with us that I couldn't let her go. The whole family has fallen in love with her and she is very settled with us and our elderly Border Terrier, Scruff. I am so glad I could be a part of keeping Sue and Brian together right up to the end. I feel honoured to be able to look after her and continue to care for her as Brian and his late wife Molly did before me.

I'm also so impressed with The Cinnamon Trust's ongoing care and support for Sue and myself now that I am her permanent fosterer."

.... and rounds off with a letter from **Angela Chippendale**....

"I am sending this email to inform you that my dad Brian Longden sadly passed away yesterday.

I would like to send my gratitude to everyone at The Cinnamon Trust for all your help and support in his last year of life and throughout the pandemic. I would like



to personally thank every single dog walker who helped out with Sue, Karen who fostered and also passing on our utmost heartfelt gratitude to Christine who has long-term fostered Sue. This charity really did make my dad's illness, hospital stays and end of life a lot easier for him to adapt

to knowing that his loving pet has gone to a loving owner and home.

I have attached a photo of Sue visiting and saying goodbye to my dad in the nursing home just two days before he died, thank you to you all.”



Another very much loved little dog, **Teddy**, lives with his dad, **John Lunnun**, in Dorset. John wrote to us:

“Thank you so much Cinnamon Trust for your kindness. Here is a photo of my darling boy, Teddy!

It isn't just what you see, but his very nature that makes him special! This dog is faultless. It's no credit to me, but his virtues seem endless. He's never chewed a thing, despite being intact he never 'humps'. He shows no sign of aggression to any other dog, never greedy, he will only eat what he wants, he only ever barks when somebody comes to the door, he never sheds any fur of course. He's so affectionate, but never licks!



Most importantly, he is the very best hot water bottle I've ever had! In part, it's for all these reasons that it breaks my heart not to be able to walk him! That is of course where you wonderful people come into the equation. I cannot over emphasise how grateful I am!”



Jenny Wallis writes from Cambridgeshire, movingly and with so much appreciation for all her volunteers:

“Although I have a genetic condition which affects my cartilage and ligaments, I never for one moment thought it would prevent me walking my beautiful Labrador, Willow. After my husband died in 2018 she was my reason to get out of bed each day. We would walk for 4 or 5 miles each morning, no matter what the weather threw at us. Willow doesn't mind rain, although she does get a bit irritated by the raindrops falling on her eyelashes, so we had to keep stopping so she could rub them off with her paw! Sadly, late last summer, my condition worsened in my right foot and finally my consultant told me I had to give up walking Willow. I was heartbroken.

Fortunately, a friend of mine suggested I contact The Cinnamon Trust, and what



life savers they are! I have some amazing dog walkers and they are all lovely friends now as well. My first was Susan, who had had King Charles Spaniels.... a bit of a difference to a fully grown, albeit slim, Labrador! Susan just embraced the challenge and it was amazing. Sadly, unrelated to walking Willow, Susan broke her collarbone. But, undaunted, she roped her husband, Peter, into Willow walking. Unfortunately as lockdown ended Peter had to return to work overseas. However, we remain in touch as friends.

Janet, John and their Bernese puppy, Toby, have also been brilliant. I like to think that my 4 year old (bouncy!) Lab helps to calm Toby slightly whilst walking together on the lead, although, my guess is, not! They too have been incredibly kind and always willing to help.

Then Meghan and her daughter Ellie came on the scene. Ellie wants a dog of her own, but just can't have one yet so mum, Meghan, decided that this was a good training ground for both Ellie and Willow! They too have been amazing and continue to be. They send me lovely photos of Willow, usually with Ellie cuddling her or stroking her tum.

Melissa is the newest of our walkers, but is yet another lovely caring person who Willow adores, and I know as time progresses she will also become another really good friend.

Then there's Rachel. She has her own Lab, Dillon, and despite Dillon obviously feeling that Willow is most definitely over the top, it didn't take him long to accept her - he keeps Willow in check if she bounces too much! It's been good for them both and apparently they walk well together and I'm hoping they will form a firm bond. Rachel has enormous patience!

A few days ago my son said he was worried that I couldn't afford to keep paying for someone to walk Willow so I explained The Cinnamon Trust to him. My 12 year old grandson said "oh Granny, isn't that amazing that in this day and age, there are people like them who care so much they volunteer to help you and Willow". I think that sums up the amazing army of volunteers. Thank you all so very much: without my beautiful dog walkers I don't know what might have happened."

Rachel Ashley-Caunt adds her view:

"I am proud to have been a dog walking volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust for

over 13 years, and feel lucky to have fond memories of time spent with all of the dogs and their owners during this time.

In 2019, I found myself taking on a whole new responsibility when the owner of a dog I was regularly walking very sadly passed away. He had made arrangements with The Trust and they knew the owner's wish was for Dillon, his gorgeous black Labrador, to live with me!

When I received an email from The Cinnamon Trust recently asking if I could help with any dog walks - and read on that Willow was a female black Labrador, who lived close by - it seemed meant to be. Dillon's only socialising has been with my family's dogs who are a fraction of his size, and he is far from keen to make friends with them (finding small dogs most intimidating), so I had wanted to him have a friend his own size.

I asked Willow's owner if she would be happy if Willow and Dillon were walked together, and we all thought it could be great for them.... and it couldn't have gone better! Dillon now has a fellow black Lab 'girlfriend' to socialise with each week, and Willow gets to join us on our long, morning walks over the fields. We all look forward to our regular walks and it's always lovely to catch up with Jen, her owner."



Volunteers who have received a **Gold Certificate** for exceptional service this time are: **Glyn Charles** (Cornwall), **Mark Chyanchuk** (Leicestershire), **Maureen Foley** (London) and **Susie Casson** (East Sussex).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) go to:

Ann Bailey (Devon), **Barbara Waterson** (Cornwall), **Mary Luckham** (Gloucestershire), **Sally Banford** (Dorset), **Sue Thompson** (Bedfordshire), **Jane Thompson** (London), **Angela Woolley** (Warwickshire), **Stella Tomlin** (Somerset), **Irene Watson** (Derbyshire), **David Smith** (West Midlands), **Judy MacOmish** (Somerset), **Pat Anderson** (Hampshire) and **Diane Houldsworth** (Norwich).

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

Helen Howard (Lincolnshire), **Ruth Farquaharson** (Surrey), **Christine Barley** (Surrey), **Iris Emberson** (Cornwall), **Catherine Burford** (Cornwall) and **Anne Warren** (Hertfordshire).

All our volunteers are exceptional ambassadors for the Trust as well as making incalculable differences to the lives of tens of thousands of owners and their pets. So, a huge thank you, to each and every one!

Pet Friendly Care Homes

Pat Piggott is Manager of **Cambray Court**, a purpose-built retirement home close to the centre of Cirencester in Gloucestershire. She came up with some innovative ways to ensure the residents of the care home kept up to date with the antics of her dogs who had to stay home earlier this year. **Prince** and **Flint** regularly accompany Pat to work and were badly missed by residents when restrictions meant they had to stay at home. Undaunted, Pat decided the show must go on and turned them into stars of the small screen with videos made on her phone.



Office dog **Flint** visits **Rosie** and her owners

“In the end I was making videos every day, one story from each dog, with their picture and a funny voice, to keep the residents up to date on what the dogs were up to,” Pat told us.



Missy

While her own dogs are busy dealing with their fans, Pat holds audience in her office for the residents’ dogs. “We have **Poppy**, a miniature Schnauzer, **Rosie**, a Shih Tzu, and **Megs**, a Jack Russell mix, who visit me the most, sometimes four times a day! Our newest recruit is Staffordshire Bull Terrier **Missy**, who brought her owner over with her the other day to bring me a refreshing ice lolly to say thank you for the nice treats! They are all beautiful loving dogs, bringing me and their owner’s joy and company. I love it!”



Barbara Gates is 84 years old and moved into **The Malt House Residential Home** in Gillingham, Dorset earlier this year. It was a big decision as she had lived in her cottage a couple of miles away for 51 years. This was made easier for her



Barbara and friends with Star

as she has been able to keep her beloved Papillion, **Star**. Having Star with her has been a great comfort and an ideal ice-breaker with other residents. All of them love her and she follows Barbara around everywhere, making friends as she goes. Barbara said “If I couldn’t have brought Star I’d still be in my cottage”.

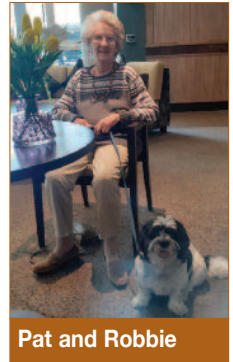
As she is in a wheelchair, Barbara has not been able to walk Star so she contacted us to ask for help.

Volunteers **Beverley** and **Paula** were quickly found and have been covering longer walks for Star most days between them. Barbara says they are marvellous and is so grateful for their help. There are a few other residents that share the home - two guinea pigs called **Bubble** and **Squeak**. They are real characters and love being cuddled by the residents.



Elton House is a luxury care home near Watford in Bushey, Hertfordshire. It offers beautiful accommodation within an outstanding community that feels just like home; it has 95 private apartments and exceptional gardens.

We were contacted by Manager **Karen Fleming** to ask us to set up dog walking help for a 95 year old lady, **Patricia**, who was moving in but could not walk her dog, **Robbie**. Volunteers **Valerie** and **Jessica** were in place ready to walk when Pat and Robbie arrived.

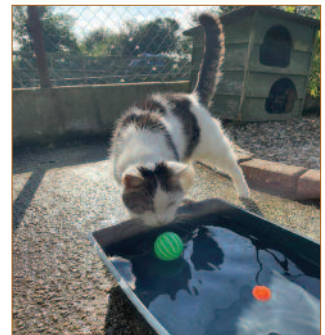


Pat and Robbie were not the only new arrivals at Elton House; baby chicks were hatched under the watchful eye of both staff and residents!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

Much fun was had by all this summer! The weather played ball and we think we've been quite inventive! The cats all decamped into the gardens leaving their rooms eerily devoid of life! Cats were sunbathing on every comfy surface they could find, we added sun loungers which they loved. They played splat the ball in a little water pool and were rewarded by a nice cooling spray every time they hit a floaty ball!! Refreshments were provided, of course; catnip and tuna ice lollies!



We had lots of picnics for everyone, **Peppa Pig** and the geese had a joint party with fruit and veg for the geese and fruity ice lollies for Peppa. Peppa

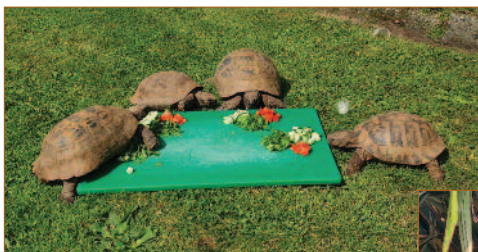




also had her very own spa weekend; time in the pool, a body oil massage and a pedicure which she loves – smiles all round!



The tortoises had pool parties with strawberry bobbing followed by a picnic. Thistle is the fastest and was first into the pool, surely a gold medal contender at the Tortoise Olympics....



The ponies also enjoyed cool baths followed by a lovely roll in the grass



The chickens used the huge grasses as giant parasols when they weren't after their apple treats and Little Goose became Nanny Goose to the baby mallards so mummy duck had some down time! She made sure they stayed in a group and didn't get into trouble and heaven help any naughty seagull that came too close – even now they are grown, they still treat her like a surrogate mum and they're always together.

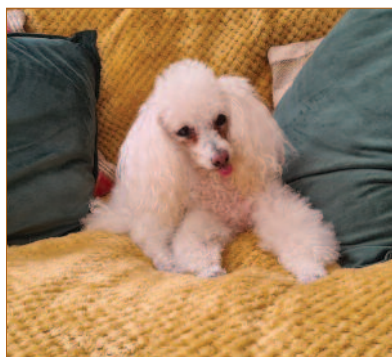


The squirrels enjoyed fruit kebabs, chilled watermelon, mushrooms from the squirrel café and.... a dandelion!

We've had lovely long ambles with the dogs through nice cool woods, over the hill on an evening, picnics, of course, and sports' day which had a mixed reception. Kai and Danny were particularly keen (?) to show off their moves in the pole bending while Blue used the tunnel as a shady tent and went for a nap! Ben, on the other hand, found a much more interesting pastime – communing with a cow who came to visit and popped her head over the fence!

We've had sad days too, which we'd rather not have.... we've lost **Dolly** Pug (13), **Lily** (14) Chihuahua, **Maggie** (15) little Cairn and six little cats: **Greebo** (18), **Lizzie** (21), **Tigerlily** (18), **Dolly** (17), **Ginger** (16) and **Chloe** (17). All have been so loved and all have left their own unique little footprints here at Poldarves.

And then **Milly** (16) came to liven things up a bit! She is a so tiny Toy Poodle with a massive character and energy to match! She gets really excited to go for a walk, tail going, dancing (she dances a lot) and she's fast – she has all of us running after her to keep up! She takes an interest in all the dogs and chooses who will be her 'friend of the day' - and, for the chosen one, it is not optional! Milly likes to have a sofa all to herself and will nudge anyone else off to achieve her goal. She will also find the biggest bed and tuck herself into it like a little queen – if it has a fluffy white Vetbed in the middle, so much the better – perfect camouflage which has us looking all over for her! Her favourite supper is warm, succulent roast chicken cut into tiny pieces for her little mouth and she loves it when



you bounce a ball which she tries to catch but never does. We pretend she has and tell her how clever she is – and she does a little dance. She also dances when the top of her tail has a scratch! And she snores! A little tiny dog with a big bark and a loud snore. An absolute darling, a joy to have here, and, a fabulous cuddle to boot.



Catkin (14) has big, beautiful, soulful eyes that follow you everywhere. She loves to play and will play chase from room to room – she’s so fast all you catch is the flame colour in her coat whizzing past you. Catkin is very confident and loves to explore each and every nook and cranny in each room and garden to see if she’s missing out on anything. She’s rather fond of the live cabaret of one pig and lots of chickens, ducks and geese and sits in the outside seats watching with great interest. She also tries to catch anything that flies past, especially butterflies; thankfully, she usually misses! And Catkin loves fish – even the toy ones. Whatever the fish of the day is - mackerel, salmon, tuna – all very scrummy! She’s very friendly and she has a purr to die for.

Catkin and Georgie came around the same time and Catkin gravitated towards Georgie, creeping closer and closer until Georgie let her on to her sofa. They found comfort in each other in those early days and are still friendly.

Georgie (14) is a gorgeous long-haired tabby. She’s claimed the back of the sofa as her own and loves to look out of the window to watch the ducks and chickens.



She can be quite aloof and has spurned the advances of handsome Archie – only Catkin is privileged to come into her space. Georgie loves nothing more than a cuddle and head massage, purring like a little traction engine. She loves a little monkey soft toy filled with catnip and she’ll rub her face and head on this and then cuddle up to it. She’s quite saucy – she likes her food covered in gravy!

The blackberries (everyone likes them) and the sloes (squirrels love them) are ripening now. The leaves are beginning to fall which the dogs think is huge fun, especially when they’ve been swept into a heap and you can jump on them and scatter anew! We’re looking forward to winter sunshine and empty beaches, winter warmer dinners, cosy fireside cuddles and snoozes and Christmas, of course, with Santa picking out special gifts for very special little people, not to mention the excitement and anticipation of Christmas dinner!

Hillside Farm Sanctuary

Among the many diversions (!) here, there was a first at Hillside this year! Our first **Annual Easter Dog Awards!** All the team took part in voting, the eleven categories and the results were:

- 1) Most Likely to be Instagram Famous – **Charlie Brown** (Dachshund, 12)
Prize: all over body massage.
- 2) Best Actor – **Matty** (Jack Russell Terrier, 14)
Prize: a chauffeured personal trip out.
- 3) Most Remarkable Barker – **Kyla** (Golden Retriever, 15)
Prize: new toy.
- 4) Best Pick Pocket – **Nina** (Golden Retriever, 10)
Prize: a very special dinner.
- 5) Most Pawfect – **Zoe** (Golden Retriever, 10)
Prize: nose to toe pamper spa day.
- 6) The 'Me and My Shadow' Award was won by **Holly** (Norfolk Terrier Cross, 13)
Prize: new collar and lead set for our trips out.
- 7) Most Photogenic – **Vanja** (Swedish Vallhund, 11)
Prize: a superstar fun photoshoot.
- 8) Loudest Snorer – **Dotty** (Staffie Cross, 14)
Prize: a chauffeured personal trip out.
- 9) Best Lounge Lizard – **Bailey** (Scottie, 12)
Prize: VIP sniffing walk and new bed
- 10) Dirtiest Snout – **Zoe** (Golden Retriever, 10)
Prize: a VIP sniffing walk
- 11) The Gentle Soul Award – **Sally** (Basset Cross, 15)
Prize: a portrait painted by local artist, our very own talented Kathleen Dora Harris.



Charlie Brown



Kyla



Nina

For taking part in the voting, the team entered a raffle ticket into a hat and the beautiful Zoe picked a ticket. When we managed to retrieve the ticket (before Zoe ate it) **Summer** was revealed as the



Sally



Dotty



Summer with Zoe and Kyla

winner and the prize was an Easter egg and chocolates.

We also had a **Sunny Doggie Sports Day BBQ** which made for a lovely afternoon of fun and games. Hoop throwing was great fun with many of the dogs happy to retrieve the hoops; the beautiful Zoe was definitely the best at retrieving overall with Vanja coming a close second, although neither of them were good on handing over the hoop at the end and would just walk around holding them, looking very pleased with themselves.



Beanbag throwing was also a great hit with the dogs, who retrieved them, some actually from the bucket. They were not always returned and when they were given back, they were soggy beanbags indeed!



Zoe

There was also **dodgeball**, which the dogs found great fun, with the staff running around wearing Velcro vests throwing felt balls at each other! The dogs were in hot pursuit and, with so many balls, the dogs were in their element. Needless to say, most of the balls ended up on the ground, whereupon the dogs happily collected them up – at one point we believe Zoe had at least 3 in her mouth!



Vanja

Welly throwing was a bit controversial, as we did not want to encourage the dogs to collect the wellies, or we could end up with a bit of a problem when it comes to the wet weather and the need to don them! However, the wellies were mostly chased and not retrieved.

The agility equipment was out and most of the dogs did well and managed to successfully go around the course – with lots of encouragement

by the cheering team and, of course, the odd sausage on offer on the way round!

Games finished, and it was time for the BBQ, with yummy sausages, chicken steaks, chicken and veg kebabs and homemade burgers. The only downside was having to wait patiently for it all to cool down sufficiently to be consumed by the eagerly awaiting dogs. With all that excitement and running around, appetites were worked up and the food was consumed with great gusto!

And then we had a **Teddy Bears' Picnic** – a picnic with a bit of a difference! Each resident brought a teddy bear along with them – some were keener than others but a fun afternoon was had. All food was teddy bear related; we had bear shaped doggie cookies, Billy Bear ham, Pom Bear crisps and Billy Bear cakes. There was also good old traditional picnic fare – sausage rolls, Scotch eggs and a variety of sandwiches including ham, pate and cheese; we took our picnic hamper and blankets and off we went! We played some of the usual games, such as tuggy, Frisbee and tennis ball fetch, but we also played pass the parcel, with specially wrapped parcels with treats inside each layer and a teddy bear prize. Again, some of the dogs were more interested than others and some of them cheated and removed more than one layer when it was their turn – mentioning no names, but they know who they are! It was a great afternoon treat for all who took part, with lots of happy, waggy tails and bright shining eyes proof of a great adventure enjoyed by all.

Carolyn Read one of our lovely supporters has been busy knitting new coats for all our dogs, they are amazing coats in fantastic colours and are made to measure and colour coordinated! Carolyn managed to knit some extra coats in general sizes, one of which fitted our newest Hillside resident, **Poppy**, who was lucky she did not have to wait for her tailor-made coat and she looks beautiful in it too. We are really looking forward to putting them to good use in the colder months ahead, so a huge thank you to the lovely Carolyn and her trusty assistant, **Boo** (her beautiful rescue Staffie) who sits by her side and keeps a watchful eye while she busily knits.



Charlie Brown in the picnic basket



Jenny looks after the basket



Vanja guarding the picnic



Zoe taking her teddy home after the picnic



Vanya with her new coat



Andy and his new coat

I feel I should also mention all the help and support that Carolyn gets from her husband, **Nigel**, and her Mum too. I gather Nigel has quite a good eye of

the wool colour schemes – please keep up the fantastic work, team Read!

Inevitably, punctuating all the fun and games, sadness came to visit when we lost **Benji** (14) Cocker Spaniel; **Matilda** (18, ginger girl); **Heathcliffe** (17) light ginger and cream boy; **Lady** (15) tabby & white; **Kyla** (14 ½) Golden Retriever; **Tom Tom** (17) tabby & white and **Dotty** (14) Staffie Cross – so many memories, so much love.



Arriving to claim his special place here was **Archie** (15) a gorgeous big boy who comes running when you call him! He loves to be outside and he's found lots of cosy dens in the gardens, and lookout points – ponies and sheep provide the entertainment! Archie has a great appetite, he loves all the food that's on offer and he always asks for seconds! Kryptonite are his favourite treats which he will do almost anything for....

Jenny (16 year 10 months) has also joined us. She is beautiful and she settled in as if she'd always lived here! Food is her passion, she just loves any and all food



and she's not averse to helping herself to anyone else's – she's so quick she has us on high alert! She's a fridge diver too and will be in quick as a flash to grab the first thing she can find – be it a packet of ham, sausages or a pot of yogurt. The yogurt incident was hilarious on reflection – there was yogurt absolutely everywhere, she looked like she was wearing a face pack and was very pleased with

herself! Opening the fridge at Hillside has become an Olympic sport – trying to get what we need before the speedy terriers can get their heads – and bodies – in! Jenny likes to do her own thing, she loves to potter. She is very quiet on her feet, and any prospect of food, a silent flash and there she is! She is such a sweet, loveable girl who gives the best cuddles and happily falls asleep in your arms or on your lap, just adorable.

Speedy (65) Mediterranean Spur Thigh Tortoise is another sweet girl who enjoys her food! She loves being out in the sunshine and who can blame her! Speedy's

arrival has given Smash and Grab a new lease of life! They both came out to greet her on her arrival and have become more active and seem to be enjoying their outdoor space a lot more.



Speedy loves her warm baths and she also likes to snack in the bath! She looks for you to hand feed her (of course) and we are only too happy to oblige.

Heidi (14) A beautiful, unassuming girl, so sweet and gentle. She is really enjoying homemade meals, especially roast chicken and veg. She loves to chase a ball out on a walk, she is such a graceful girl and so fast – she outruns all the others so we now have to ensure we take plenty of balls so everyone has a chance at fetching them! Heidi does love to spread out fully on a sofa and if we happen to be in the way she'll push us off with her dainty but strong feet, but if there's another resident dog on there, she will lay around them – we know our place! She has become an avid fly catcher! She stalks them around the room before speedily snapping at them, she's not very successful, but she keeps trying, bless her!



Hettie (10) Sussex chicken has taken to Hillside life really well, she stood her ground from the first second she met one of the existing flock and hasn't looked back! Hettie is a very magnificent chicken with her beautiful white feathers which she keeps incredibly clean – most of the time! A dust bath puts paid to that! She likes to be hand fed and always comes over expectantly and follows you around looking and waiting for a treat or two. A very sociable girl who is living life to the full!



Max and **Carla** (13½) are brother and sister and very close to each other. Carla is so pretty and she does love a fuss and cuddle. She likes to be groomed but she will rub on the brush making it quite difficult for us – but she purrs her approval, loudly! She has a great appetite, loves her fish and very much enjoys alfresco dining in the garden!



Max is a gorgeous boy who also loves a fuss and cuddle. He

prefers to sit next to you rather than on a lap but if you stop stroking him, he nudges you to carry on! He soon discovered catnip toys and there was no going back! Max particularly likes a rainbow catnip toy, he loves to roll on it and rub his face all over it, so cute! He, too, has a great appetite for all food but really, really enjoys roast chicken.



Andy (13½) is a lovely boy who seems to take everything in his stride. He's loving his homecooked meals and has a great appetite. Andy loves, loves, loves tennis balls. He'll play with them and chase them, quite honestly, all day long! Except when he's chasing the vacuum cleaner; he jumps and barks at it and it takes us almost twice as long to get the cleaning done! Andy has the most amazing tiny little howl we've ever heard. When he wants your attention he gives a little cry and then howl. At first we thought he was unhappy but it is just his way of getting us to pay him singular attention! He thinks he's a big dog and insists on doing the morning checks and greeting the chickens first thing!



Poppy (14) adorable, beautiful, gentle Collie with a bottom J-Lo would be envious of! Poppy is a counter surfer, so much so that we have to ensure there is nothing within her reach on any of the work surfaces! Naturally, she has a great appetite! She loves to take the lead on a walk but does glance back occasionally to check we are all bringing up the rear. She also loves to look out of the windows – she jumps on the sofa and on to the window sill to see what's going on – even though the door may be open and she could go outside!



With time seeming to be rushing past so fast, it will not be long and we will be organizing our

Halloween party, with the team dressing up and pumpkin carving, followed by the making of pumpkin soup and pies – lots of treats for the residents, but not so many tricks! And then, before we know it, Christmas will be upon us and all the joy and fun that comes with it. We are already making 'to do' lists, so we are hoping that we will be ahead of ourselves when the big day arrives. There will be a few new treats on the menu and a couple of new games to play, too – it is going to be amazing and great fun. But, before and in between these times, we are hoping to get some trips to some of our favourite beaches again. We may have

to don our cosy jumpers and winter coats, but once on the beach the dogs just love to run around and dig and roll on the sand. Most like to paddle and splosh in the shallow waves or the rockpools, some love to explore the washed up seaweed with its fascinating smells. We all love our beach trips, with balls to chase and snacks as we go, everyone really enjoys themselves and the dogs return with sandy fur and noses and happy, waggy tails – all in time for tea!



Poetry Corner

I'm sure we are all too familiar with the feelings expressed in our first poem from **Sue Key-Stone**.

Whisper Goodbye

The echo of the seagull as it
skims across the bay
The flicker of the sunlight as it
tries to light my way
The crashing sound of sea waves
As they break against the rocks
The fury of the racing wind that tugs
at me and mocks
At the tears that keep on coming
which nothing seems to stop
For your dying left a chasm and a
pain that won't let go
And though I have sweet memory
yet still I miss you so.

And **Mollie H. Spears** wrote this 'perfect for Christmas' poem.

The Donkey

The donkey carefully walked along
the stony road;
he somehow knew that he was carrying
a very precious load.
For on his back sat a gentle lady,
Mary was her name,
And with her husband, Joseph,
to Bethlehem they came.
When Joseph saw the darkening sky,

his looks became more worried,
as, failing to get a room at the inn,
to a stable nearby they hurried.
And there in the warmth of a lowly stable,
Jesus Christ was born.
A brilliant star in the sky above
signalled this special dawn.
Three Wise Men came and gave some gifts,
but the donkey had also given.
He'd given his care whilst carrying Mary,
And never had to be driven.
The donkey turned as he heard a voice say,
"For what you've done for Me,
The sign of the Cross will be on your back,
for everyone to see."
How humble and proud the donkey felt,
as he gazed at the Baby Divine.
And so it is right that down through the years,
all the donkeys bear this sign.
He stood and watched this lovely scene,
in which he'd played a part.
His old grey head held high with pride,
and happiness filled his heart.



And Finally

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close, a year in which we helped 145,093 owners with 146,212 pets and it has been an honour to do. My thanks go to all of you; our members, supporters, volunteers and staff – it is you who make The Cinnamon Trust special and together we'll keep it that way.

Christmas with its powerful message of love, hope and goodwill approaches and a new year beckons. A time for reflection and time, please, to raise a glass and remember, with never ending love, absent friends.

Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

God bless, everyone.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive