

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

She knows her name. It's **Baby**. She comes when she's called, usually! She likes her comfort, she doesn't like the rain, at all. She's a shorthorn cow, she's very lovely and she's a Leap Year Baby so she celebrated her fourteenth birthday on March 1st, a day later is better than a day earlier for ladies of a certain age! There's more in Poldarves Sanctuary news...



After a very rough winter, it's truly wonderful to welcome spring. Daffodils, primroses, hyacinths bringing colour back into our lives, young bright green leaves unfurling, birdsong to lift the heart, and all this awakening heralds the time to share a little of what we've all been doing...

CT '100 Club

Our big winner who received £100 in December was **Linda Ward** (Herefordshire). Winners who have each received £25 are: October: **Sandi Jones** (Berkshire), November: **Judy Mullinger** (North Yorkshire), and winners who have received £30 are: January: **Jackie Bickerdyke** (Cheshire), February: **Christine Howe** (Essex) and March: **Hazel Witthoft** (Cornwall).



Fundraising Events

Charlotte Owosho and the patients of **St Brelade's Older Persons Mental Health Ward** (Dorset) held a plant sale at their garden party and raised £81.50. **Lawson Tickell** and **Heather Hosking** (Cornwall) raised £100 on their stall at Illogan Friends' Fun Day. **Gail Everett** along with **Mark** and **Georgina Curgenven** (Somerset) raised £320 at the ever-popular Dunster Beach Holidays dog show. **Alison Wheeler** (Essex) raised £203.21 on her stalls at West Mersea Town Regatta and Tolleshunt Knights Christmas Fayre. **Ginny Heathcote-Ball** (Rutland) held a lovely Garden Party and raised a terrific £668.50. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) has been busy again, raising £85 on her stalls at the All Saint's Church garage sale and East Huntspill Church Fête. **Christine Derham** (Suffolk) raised £82 with the sale of her beautiful peacocks' feathers. **Mike** and **Denise Hasshill** (Cornwall) raised £50 with the sale of logs. **Linda Hodgetts** (North Somerset) and the committee of Portishead Summer Show chose us to receive £108.50, the proceeds of their fun dog show on the day. **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) raised £422.35 with sales of various items – including a stairlift! **Gemma Viles** (Devon) took part in the No Limits Racing's Ladies' Charity Race – an annual open classification race where experienced riders and those new to motorcycle racing can join each other to raise money and showcase women in motorsport. The participants, and organisers, chose to support our work and raised a stupendous £2,755! **Sue Longworth** (Devon), along with **Megan Qua** and **Christine Ellis**, raised £63.05 on their stall at Honiton Charter Day. **Caroline Hendra** and



Caroline Hendra and Pauline Grimes

Pauline Grimes (Lancashire) raised £87.66 on their stall at the Carla Lane Fun Dog Show. **Pauline Argles** (Suffolk) held a coffee party in her garden, 20 friends enjoyed coffee, cake and a raffle (in dry weather!) and raised £320. **Fay Fitch** and the team at **The Grooming Parlour** (Norfolk) raised £165 with their pet nail trimming service. **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) raised £28 with the sale of flower bulbs. **Maggie Martin** and her husband, **John**, (West Sussex) have been



Maggie Martin and Jan Churchfield



John Martin with Richie and Sue Line



Mike Solomons



Sue Schiff

amazing as always. They raised a stonking £2,497.50 with a wonderful cream tea, Christmas Fair and sales (including 36 hand-baked Christmas cakes!). Help came from **Mike Solomons, Jan Churchfield, Sue Schiff, Richie and Sue Line.**

Jess Startin (Devon) raised £81.72 with her Easter egg trail - great idea! **Ro Cartwright** (Devon), **Fiona Lane, Sarah White, Andrea Aldam and Sarah Parsons** raised £50 on their stall at Exeter & County Canine Society's show. **Gill Duroe** (Cambridgeshire) raised £572.40 on her stall at Letchworth Agility Club's show with help from **Jane Bustin, Sheila Taylor and Marlene Freeman. Barrie Harding** and the congregation of **St Michael the Archangel, Woodham Walter** (Essex) raised £160 at their lovely Pet Service.



Exeter and County Canine Society Show

Jean Harlow (Bedfordshire) raised £205 in lieu of birthday gifts. **Christina Gillett** (East Sussex) held a lunch party and raised £162. **Jen Guerin** (Buckinghamshire) and **Anne Wall** raised £50 with their plant sale. **The London Cat Clinic** raised a terrific £489.50 with their 2022 calendar featuring the Finest Feline Faces! **Tony and Carol Nurden** (Cornwall) celebrated their Diamond Wedding and raised £275 in lieu of gifts - many congratulations! **Virginia Selmon** (East Sussex) enjoyed a lovely lunch on her special birthday and raised an incredible £1,605! Another special birthday! **Molly and Jack Cox** (North Somerset) held a Jazz Concert to celebrate Jack's important day and raised £800. **Diane Kerrison** (Cornwall) raised £310 with a sponsored walk, her little dog, **Scruffy**, joined in with the fun! **Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust** (Lancashire) allocate money to their staff to present as a team to a charity of their choice, **Guildford Branch** chose us, and we



Diane Kerrison with Kyle at CT HQ

received a wonderful £700. **Rachel Little** and the team at **The RockPool Café** (Cornwall) held very popular craft fayres and raffles and raised £412. **Julia Possener** (Lancashire) raised £300 in lieu of gifts on her birthday. **Janet MacPherson** and the members of **The Oakvilla Club** (Devon) held a quiz and raised £100. **Carolyn Morris** (Cornwall) has been a star again, raising £210 with the sale of books and DVDs from her doorstep. **Virginia Robson-Hull** (Norfolk) and her Italian conversation group raised £15. **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) raised £398.44 with the sale of her fantastic hand-baked doggy treats! **Christine Connolly** and the congregation of **All Saints' Church** (West Yorkshire) chose us as their Charity of the Month in October and sent us £168. **Louise Roberts** (Somerset) raised £102.50 from the sale of her beautiful festive wreaths. **Elizabeth Mutton** (Middlesex) raised £80 with the sale of eggs from her ducks and chickens. **Angela Hubbard** (East Sussex) sold some fundraising stock and raised £50. **Nicky Killon** and the team at **Stamford Animal and Pet Supplies** (Lincolnshire) held a Christmas raffle and raised a brilliant £1,553! **Fiona Maguire**



Maggie Nylk and friends

(Derbyshire) organised a festive jumper week for the pets at her doggy day care and raised £50. **Lou Oppenheim** (Perthshire) raised £100 in lieu of sending Christmas gifts. **Maggie Nylk** (Norfolk) and her friends had a cake stall and raised a tasty £200. Terrific as always, the volunteers of **The Crossing Charity Shop**, Kirkby in Ashfield (Nottinghamshire) chose us to benefit from their fundraising efforts and we received £120. **Sharon Morgan** and colleagues of **The Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy** (Oxfordshire) raised £151 with a raffle held at their Conference. **Ginny Garrett** (Cornwall) raised £50 from selling tools and gadgets. **Sian Wade** (Warwickshire) raised £30 in lieu of Christmas gifts. **Delphine Etches** (Dorset) raised £35 in lieu of gifts on her birthday. **Pamela McGillivray** (Sussex) raised £70 in lieu of gifts on her special day. **Jean McCarthy** (Staffordshire) raised £100 in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Daphne Owen** (Shropshire) raised £280 with her tombola. **CHeWs Dog Training** (London) continue to choose us as their charity of the year and raised a stunning £2,757 with their online events. **Exeter & County Canine Society** held a fun show and also held The Cinnamon Trust stakes class at their Premier Open Show, and they raised a total of £187. **Waveney Dog Obedience Group** (Norfolk) have sadly had to close. They chose to send us some of the funds left in their account and we received an incredible £6,700! **Itchen Valley Training Society** (Hampshire) chose us to receive £200 at their AGM. **Hastings & St Leonards Dog Training Club** have chosen us as their Charity of the Year up to 2024 and sent us an incredible £3,000. **Great Yarmouth Dog Training Club** raised £100. **Ash Dog Training** (Wiltshire) raised £150. **Ribble Dog Agility** (Lancashire) raised

£1,000. **North Dorset Ringcraft Club** raised £87 at their Christmas match. **Malmesbury and District Dog Training Club** raised £50. **Homestead Dog Training** (Hampshire) raised £300 at their classes.

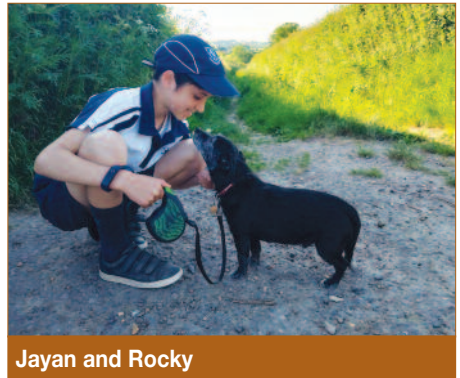


Volunteer Views

Here's a lovely all round view from Devon to start us off – Volunteers **Jayan Bossuet** and **Alina Paul**, and **Rocky's** mum **Ann Sampson** write:

From Jayan (age 10):

“When I first heard my mum had volunteered to walk dogs for The Cinnamon Trust I was extremely keen to do it with her because I love dogs and I don't have one of my own. On the first day I went to see Rocky (he was the dog my mum was walking), he started barking excitedly as I opened the door and it was like he was so happy to see me ... and also very eager to go out! Rocky is the best dog I have ever met as he is always happy when we come to walk him and is very friendly. I treat Rocky as if he is my own dog and he is certainly my new best friend. Whenever I give Rocky a treat or a scratch under the neck (he really likes that), he always gazes up at me in the most loving way! Rocky loves coming to cricket training with me as he enjoys a paddle in the river by the cricket club. I am so glad that my mum volunteered to walk Rocky and I hope many other people help walk dogs too!”



Jayan and Rocky

From Alina:

“My son and I instantly bonded with Mrs Sampson and her lovely dog Rocky. We felt very welcome and appreciated and it is a real pleasure to take Rocky out with us as he genuinely enjoys his walks. This is my first time volunteering with The Cinnamon Trust and it has proved a very positive family experience. The Trust is such an invaluable organisation safely connecting those who need help walking their dogs with those who want to do so. We look forward to continuing this special time with Rocky.”

And from Ann:

“I am thrilled to have help through The Trust. All my volunteers have been fantastic

and have become friends keeping in touch and visiting even when I moved house. They have been very supportive during the pandemic, phoning and making sure that we are ok. Rocky absolutely loves his walkers and has a whale of a time on his walks with them. So, thank you to The Cinnamon Trust and your wonderful volunteers; you are life savers.”



Belinda Hatton: in Lancashire says;

“I have been working from home since the start of lockdown in March 2020 and soon realised I was working too many hours and not getting out and about enough. I figured if I had a dog then that would force me to leave my desk and go for regular walks. A little bit of searching and I found The Cinnamon Trust. I immediately knew this was the best way for me; it would mean I could make a commitment to walking a dog, it would help someone who is unable to walk their own dog and give both me and the dog a bit of extra exercise and fresh air. Winner, winner!!

I joined The Trust in January 2021 and have been able to walk a couple of lovely dogs in this time, the first was a cheeky little Pug whose owner was waiting for an operation so was unable to do the walks.



My latest charge is Penny, a lively little dog who loves to go for a walk – but she loves getting home so much more! She makes me laugh as she knows exactly where the half-way point is and quite firmly turns around to go home. This little lady is full of character and determination and I know she brings lots of joy to her owners so I am very pleased to be able to help in this way.

I am really enjoying my volunteering experience with The Cinnamon Trust and find it helps me just as much as it helps anyone else. So, thank you to all who are involved at The Trust.”



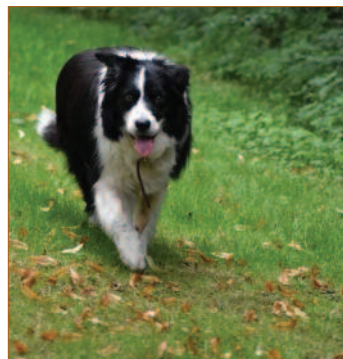
Daphne Owen in Shropshire writes:

“When I first became a dog walking volunteer with The Cinnamon Trust I met Poppy, a 12-year-old Border Collie. Her elderly owner, Donna, had lost her husband the previous year and she was struggling to walk Poppy. Along with two

other Cinnamon Trust volunteers we made sure Poppy was walked every day.

When we called to collect Poppy we were able to keep a wary eye on Donna and she enjoyed a chat and a cuppa before we left. Donna was a real character and she enjoyed the banter and camaraderie of our visits.

Unfortunately Donna became seriously ill earlier this year and so we helped Donna sign up to bequeath Poppy to the care of The Cinnamon Trust when the time came. She was so relieved that Poppy would be well cared for if anything happened to her. After Donna passed away Poppy went to enjoy life at Hillside Sanctuary.



Having walked Poppy for 3½ years I had become very fond of her and I was very concerned about what would become of her. Having seen her in her new home at Hillside Sanctuary I am sad that I no longer walk Poppy, but I couldn't be more delighted knowing that she will spend the rest of her days secure and happy in the care of The Cinnamon Trust.

I now walk a lovely chap called Charlie, a very handsome Retriever, for a lady called Gwen. I am looking forward to many years with both of them."



Deborah Warren (Kent) says:

"I first became aware of The Cinnamon Trust when my sister mentioned she was a volunteer and talked about the delights of walking a dog for an elderly gentleman where she lives in Bedfordshire. She suggested I may also be interested in volunteering as a dog walker where I live in Kent. This coincided with the first lockdown and I applied to The Cinnamon Trust, aware that elderly and vulnerable people were being advised to isolate which would have additional repercussions on their pets.

Bailey was my first assignment and I couldn't have had a more enjoyable introduction to The Cinnamon Trust or a more adorable little chap to walk. We had great fun getting to know



Deborah with Bailey and Freddie

each other. When Bailey's mummy was unwell and stayed with her twin sister who lives nearby, I met her dog Freddie and realised he, too, would benefit from help with walks so suggested Freddie's mummy contact The Cinnamon Trust. I now walk both boys together on a regular basis and we have great fun walking on the beach, along the Royal Military Canal, through lovely country lanes and playing fields.

Bailey and Freddie are both absolutely adorable, have very different characters and are extremely entertaining. They love smelling every blade of grass, watering every post we pass, walking on the sea wall, trying to catch seagulls on the beach, posing for photos, being rewarded with treats and meeting other dogs and children we come across on our outings. We often visit my 89-year-old mum who delights in the boys' antics and they are so gentle with her, especially when we all go for a walk together.

I love walking the boys and their mummies are always very appreciative. Bailey and Freddie go crazy with excitement when I collect them and our outings are very sociable as they attract lots of attention being so cute and friendly. I have become good friends with another Cinnamon Trust lady who walks Bailey regularly. We often meet to walk them together enabling us to catch up and we communicate regularly to ensure we can cover for each other when necessary.

We all benefit from lovely walks, fresh air and exercise while we lucky Cinnamon Trust volunteers have the added bonus of knowing that we are providing a great service, representing a trustworthy and respected charity but, most of all, we are enabling pets and owners to remain together."



Jackie Shaw sends this from Shropshire:



Charlie

"I've been a Cinnamon Trust volunteer for over 12 years and my very first doggy was Sam, a Golden Retriever belonging to Gwen. After Sam sadly passed in 2014, Ben came along and, equally as sad, he departed for doggy heaven just before his 14th Birthday in April.

Earlier this year, handsome Golden Retriever Charlie had been placed in the hands of the Golden Retriever Rescue team due to no fault of his own and Gwen, having recently lost Ben, was searching for

a special dog to fill the sad void that Ben's passing had created, and ... hey presto ... Gwen meets Charlie!

He found his now forever home earlier this year and what a lovely boy he is. He settled in wonderfully and I saw his confidence grow in a very short time which is great to see for both him and Gwen. He is, however, mischievous; nearly naughty some might say! When I turn up to walk him, if he can't find a toy, he'll grab the nearest item. 'Presents' have included a cushion, the Radio Times, a water bottle, just to mention a few, and if I place my bag down he'll grab that too and run off into the garden! I think he believes it's his; finders keepers and all that!

Charlie loves looking up at anything in the sky, be it planes, birds and the stars when it's dark. He is highly interested in his surroundings, alert to any animal noises, saying hello to cows and sheep and chasing pheasants and squirrels. I have to be very aware as he'll be off, dragging me behind him. He can be very good without these distractions and a biscuit always gets his attention. He walks well on the lead and Charlie's all-time favorite activity is sitting in water. He doesn't care if it's clear or dirty, and I think his aim is to try and swim, but the puddles and even the local ford are just not deep enough for him to swim. I remember my very first walk with him. I had managed to keep him clean and dry but, upon arriving back at Gwen's he disappeared into the garden and I couldn't see where he'd gone. On further inspection, there he was sitting in the pond. Needless to say, I had to hose him down as his fur had turned a little green!

Crazy Charlie. But lovable, happy and adorable and I call him Charlie Farlie. He was 7 in October so hopefully there will be many more years to enjoy this lovely boy.

As always, thank you to the Cinnamon Trust for allowing me to become a volunteer and for the doggies and their parent/s for trusting me with their beautiful 'kids' over the years."



Jeanette Bowden is in Harrogate, she says:

"My lovely partner, Peter, and his doting 17-year-old Jack Russell passed away three years ago and within a few weeks of each other, it understandably left a huge void in my life.

In the past year, with a combination of lockdowns and working less and from home, I had toyed with the idea of getting my own dog to accompany me on the long walks I love. However, thinking of the unique bond that had existed between my partner and his dog, it struck me that, particularly in present times, there would be dog-loving owners that, for various reasons, may not be able to walk their



Jeanette with Freddie

cherished four-legged companions. Therefore, when I heard about The Cinnamon Trust, it seemed to match my aspirations perfectly – to help dog owners and their pets in precisely that situation, while giving me much appreciated company on my daily walks.

I duly applied to The Trust and was delighted and impressed – thanks also to my lovely referees – with the speed of acceptance of my application and the professional, helpful process and guidelines. Within a week, I was put in contact with Douglas, a locally based client, with a view to helping to walk his dog, Freddie, a cross-breed Terrier. Having spoken with Douglas, I set off, armed with dog treats and a new lead, but not without some trepidation, to meet Freddie.

I need not have worried. It was love at first sight for me. Freddie was more cautious. He was friendly, but understandably a little wary. He greeted me and accepted going on my lead without difficulty, but we only managed to walk a short way from his home before he was literally looking over his shoulder and itching to get back to his beloved owner. Naturally I was happy to take things at his pace. The next day we went on a much longer walk before Freddie returned at his customary gallop back home. By day 3, we were all getting much happier with the routine. On his first couple of walks, Freddie had given some territorial barks to other dogs we'd met - I'd been warned that, in true Terrier style, he could be 'bold on his lead' - but by our third outing he was happy to ignore them. He also slipped his collar at one point, just to show he could, but then stood there patiently as I reattached him to his lead. I'm not sure who was training whom!

Each day Freddie brings a smile to my face and I don't think I'm out of line to say our daily outings bring a smile to the face of his owner, Douglas, too. We share a joke about the fact that I'm allowed to borrow Freddie, as long as I bring him back. We all know that's the deal and are very happy with the arrangement. Freddie is happy to see me, but even happier to return back home to his loving owner and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Douglas always makes a point of expressing his gratitude at my turning up for my daily afternoon walk with Freddie. I feel I'm understating how I feel when I say that it is my pleasure. It has become a genuine highlight of my day to see Freddie wagging his tail at my arrival, but the even greater joy he experiences when he is reunited with Douglas.

I'm extremely grateful to The Trust for giving me this opportunity, within a professional and structured framework that seems to support both owners and volunteers with equal care and consideration. I appreciated all the practical advice which was provided and the fact I seem to have been matched so perfectly to the dog and owner that represented the scenario I was so keen to support. I have recommended The Cinnamon Trust to a lot of my friends - who also love dogs and walks - but admit that I will be slightly jealous if they end up walking Freddie and usurp me in his affections. That right remains firmly with Douglas!



From South Yorkshire, **Adele Lourdes** sent this:

"Lockdown life as a singleton has been very much improved since January, and I have Islay and Bramble to thank for that! They are a grand pair of ladies and my Saturday mornings are a lot brighter for sharing their company. I've gone from being a stranger to an Auntie in a very short space of time and, as every dog-lover knows, that's such a great feeling.

You can imagine that first meeting with Islay and Bramble, and of course their Mum and Dad, was always going to be a bit different - social-distancing, and face masks, and working out the logistics of everyone being safe, but in the end it was a breeze. Islay is very much top dog within the dynamic duo and had no problems in coming up for a look-see, more than happy to be stroked and fussed over! Bramble was a little more reserved, she followed in Islay's pawsteps but didn't hang around for too long. First day nerves perhaps? If so, they didn't last, and off we three went for a quick walk round the block - as blind dates go, it was a great start. Now, they come out ready to roll, with some very enthusiastic greetings and it's like we've been friends for ever. They're just brilliant; inquisitive, friendly, patient, welcoming, trusting.

For a small dog, Bramble can plant herself firmly if she decides she doesn't want to move! But a few gentle words and a chin-tickle (me to her in case you're trying to picture it) and off we all go again, and she could walk forever. She likes to look forward, chunters at other dogs, trots along like she's at Crufts. Islay likes to investigate a lot, we have plenty of stops and starts for some good old sniffing sessions and she takes it a bit steadier, but she can trot along nicely when she wants to. They are so well-behaved that it's just a joy to share their walks, especially when they are scooting along, tails up, leading the way. I get a lot of compliments about 'my' dogs, so there's lots of explanation about The Cinnamon Trust and the invaluable support it provides.

We have a nice little route, currently just round some of their local streets, and we tootle along for about 1.6 miles. They are very skilled at a pincer movement and

coming up from behind, one on the left and one on the right, and wrapping me in the leads! I've become very nimble at getting out of that tangle. It's so rewarding to see their confidence grow. They walk round with smiles on their faces, and I am beaming too. It's great to discover their personalities, their quirks, and their enthusiasm. I am going to enjoy taking them out for as long as they'll have me. All we need now is warmer weather.

I am so lucky to be helping Phil and Meryl with their precious babies. This is so much more than being a dog-walker; I'm taking their family out and I know just how big that is for us all. Being able to help like this, meeting some very special people and with some great doggy company - well, it's something that I hope more owners and would-be volunteers hear about and want to be part of. It's a win-win for all of us, so come and join in the fun!"

And **Bramble** and **Islay** couldn't resist having a word as well ...

"Recently, Dad's back has got really bad and Mum's breathlessness has got so difficult that neither of them can take us for walks anymore.

We had both put on a lot of weight and our nails had grown uncomfortably long and Mum & Dad were feeling REALLY guilty about not walking us, but couldn't really afford a regular dog-walker. Luckily, they mentioned this to our fabulous 'hairdresser', Auntie Karen, who told them about The Cinnamon Trust, of whom, like a lot of people, Mum and Dad had never heard.

Not holding out a lot of hope, Dad phoned The Cinnamon Trust and initially spoke to a lovely lady who explained how things worked and said she'd do her best for us AND SHE DID!

Since then, lots of lovely ladies from The Cinnamon Trust have regularly been in touch and guess what? They've done it! YIPPEE! We've now got FOUR wonderful, caring dog-walkers, who we love and who each take us out once a week! (We haven't mentioned their names in case they're shy!).

We can't tell you what a difference this has made! We've made new friends! Mum and Dad have made new friends! Our walkers have made new friends and we're sure they really enjoy our 'walkies'! We just LOVE going out and have lost both weight and nails. We are much more sprightly and Mum and Dad don't feel guilty anymore!

Thank you so much Cinnamon Trust and if we ever meet any other dogs whose pet-parents are sad 'cos they are unable to go walkies, we'll tell them our story!"



Kate Fletcher in West Sussex writes:

"I signed up to volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust around the same time as I sadly lost my beloved 'dog in a million'; my German Shepherd Dog named Buddy and it felt like fate when I was asked to help with walks for a dog named, strangely, Buddy! I have been walking Buddy for a while now and my own little dog, Moira, and I absolutely adore him and always look forward to our walks together. He is always so excited when I turn up! Buddy is very food motivated (although I am careful what treats I give him as he has allergies) so it wasn't long before he could be let off lead on our walks and have a race around in the woods with Moira, or chase after his tennis ball.



Buddy with his friend Moira

The unexpected bonus is that I feel that I have made a real friend in Buddy's owner, Margaret, who I enjoy chatting to after each walk. I try to take photos of Buddy each time so that she can see how much fun he is having, plus I know she misses being able to take him out herself. I'd encourage anyone to become a volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust - it is such an enjoyable and rewarding thing to do."

And **Margaret** has also written:

"I would just like to say how grateful I am to the charity and to Kate and Penny who come and walk Buddy for me. Buddy loves them and his walks; it is such a help for me and I feel happy knowing Buddy is in good hands and getting good walks.

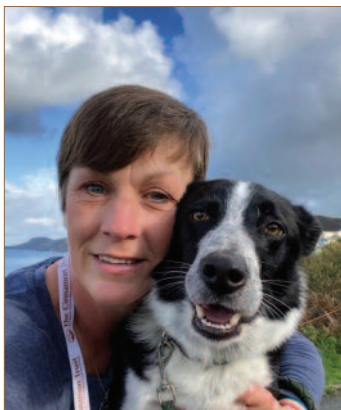
A few weeks ago, my volunteer dog walker Kate had taken Buddy for his usual walk and on return I was taken ill and passed out. Kate was amazing and helped me and made sure I was ok. She was fantastic in an emergency and, whilst caring for me, contacted The Trust who then spoke to my daughter and son; all beyond the call of duty!! Kate was extremely calm and so kind and my family and I are extremely grateful!

The Cinnamon Trust has not only bought me peace of mind for my little dog, but two new excellent and firm friends."



From Dyfed **Sam Millward** writes:

"Jo is a typical, intelligent, high energy and fun Collie whose Mum (due to poor



Sam with Jo

health) is finding it difficult to give him the active walks that he needs. She approached The Cinnamon Trust for help and advice and I'm so glad she did.

I have recently taken early retirement and find myself with time on my hands and a desire to 'give something back.' As a lover of dogs (I am Mum to 2 crazy Spaniels) and the great outdoors, walking for The Cinnamon Trust seemed perfect. And it is.

Having heard about Jo from The Trust, a phone call to his Mum led to a meeting and a short walk a few days later. I never saw myself as a 'Collie girl' until I became Jo's friend. When he spots me through the window he lets himself out of the back door (I said he was clever) and greets me with a 2 pawed, leg hug and Collie kisses.

Jo and his Mum are lucky to live a stone's throw from the beach and coast path and that is where we head for our adventures. Several weeks of lead walking gave us time to get to know and trust one another. I am very proud of the special bond we have formed. With the bond made and the disappearance of the tourists (leaving us with the beach to ourselves) we now have a soggy, sandy time with a long line and a tennis ball; I'm not sure which of us enjoys it more! Jo's recall is great and he will drop the tennis ball a few feet from me then roll it to me with his nose. Cute!

A stroll on the coast path gives us chance to practice our lead walking and do a bit of dolphin spotting. Jo does not share my excitement when we catch sight of one but he humours me and enjoys the 'sniffs' along the path.

Being able to make a difference to Jo's life is rewarding and I look forward to my porch chats with Jo's Mum at collection and drop off - and think she does, too. If you were to ask me if you should volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust I'd say "get yourself a good pair of boots and go for it."

Everyone should have a 'Jo' in their life."



Sarah Gould is in Northampton and says:

"I first heard about The Cinnamon Trust about 10 years ago when my Mum could no longer walk her elderly Staffie. Two kind Cinnamon Trust volunteers walked her

for several years and often had a cuppa with Mum who was housebound. It was a great comfort to her knowing that Jess was walked and pleasant to have someone to chat to. I retired 18 months ago and decided to reciprocate their kindness by applying as a volunteer myself.

My first dog was an adorable Lurcher called Jet who I have been walking three times a week for his owner Helen. He is very well behaved so I am able to let him off lead over the fields. To see him run is a sight to behold; so much joy. I walk him with my Terrier cross and it is the highlight of my week. It's also lovely to have doorstep chats with Helen.



Sarah with George

Then, at the beginning of lockdown, another Lurcher was in need of walks. His owners, Ann and Peter, had to isolate so I started walking gorgeous George twice a week. George gets very excited when we ring the doorbell; he can be heard barking and howling from outside and my Terrier, Kasha, often joins in too.

My friend Heidi usually joins us at the weekend for walks and both the Lurchers love being part of a pack. I really love my regular walks with these lovely dogs. It gives structure to my week and keeps me reasonably fit.

I would recommend volunteering for The Trust to anyone with a bit of time to spare, it is hugely rewarding and very enjoyable."



Tamsin Walker writes from Norfolk:

"I moved to Gorleston in Norfolk just before the very first lockdown. My Jack Russell Oscar, my faithful 14-year-old companion, became very ill and sadly I had to make the difficult decision to have him put to sleep. My dream of moving to the seaside with Oscar and going for walks along the beach was not what I had hoped for.

My mum is a volunteer and walks a dog for The Cinnamon Trust so I knew all the positive things that come from it and I was so missing walking a dog – so, I signed up!



Meeting Judy and Jazz has been one of the best things I have done. Judy had sadly lost her husband and chief dog walker and, due to Judy's mobility, she was unable to walk Jazz. Judy was then diagnosed with cancer, so walking Jazz was even more important.

I still remember meeting the handsome Jazz, he jumped up at me resting his paws on my shoulder and licked my face! Walking him is so enjoyable, although he's so strong and I am often seen twirling round as he gets a scent of something!!

I walk every Sunday, as I work full time, I look forward to not only seeing Jazz but Judy too, and she's told me that her dog walkers are the only other people, apart from her family she sees. We always have a chat and a giggle and I hope I brighten her day as much as she brightens mine.

Doing this simple deed is one of the best feelings."



From Devon **Angelo** and **Pauline Martinetti** write:

"I worked in an animal rescue for about 35 years dealing with stray dogs where I met my wife Pauline. We both eventually retired and moved to lovely Torbay in Devon with our beautiful Irish Wolfhound, April, who sadly died a few years ago.

I missed walking dogs so much I decided to apply to The Cinnamon Trust so I could continue to walk dogs and was put in touch with Denise and Obi.

When I first walked into the house, Obi did his guard dog duty well and told me off. But once I put his harness on to go for a walk and spoke to Denise quietly and calmly we became the best of friends. I then walked him for 2 or 3 times a week for about 2 years.



One day I went round to walk Obi and found Denise had a fall and was on the floor. An ambulance and I did my best to reassure her that Obi would be fine with Pauline and myself and that she must concentrate on getting well. She was taken to hospital and then on to

Obi visiting Mum, Denise.... and on the beach with Angelo

respite where she still remains (thankfully she was not hurt, but very weak).

On the day she went into hospital we called The Cinnamon Trust to let them know that we were taking Obi home with us and some months later he is still here with us, luckily my wife is dog mad as well. He has enjoyed many walks on the beach and Dartmoor etc. with Pauline and myself. He is a little dog with a big character and follows me around like a shadow and is a very good guard dog.

We will continue to give him a home for as long as necessary. We go and see Denise in the care home and take Obi with us for a visit; he goes mad when he sees her and they love and miss each other very much as they have a very strong bond with each other. She has no other relative apart from Obi. All the nursing staff love him as well and enjoy his visit."

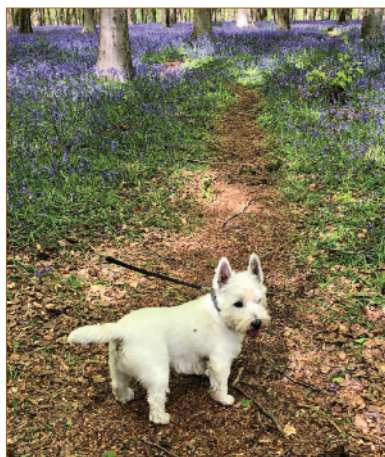


Zeffy and Linda Maayan (Hampshire) say:

"We were contacted by The Trust to foster a dog owned by a gentleman who was having a complicated knee replacement.

On 22 March we were very pleased to meet Nip (an 8-year-old Westie) for the first time. We thought he would be reluctant to leave his owner but, luckily, Nip loves going in cars and so was happy to journey to our home.

He was a little unsettled during the first night but after that he acclimatised well. He is a fantastic dog - intelligent, responsive, affectionate, welcoming and good with children and visitors - including the postie!



He enjoys his walks and is good with other dogs.

The Cinnamon Trust is a wonderful charity and we started initially with walking one dog called Buddy twice a week and then started with Razzle every Saturday. Nip is the first dog we have fostered and he has been a wonderful addition to our home. The Cinnamon Trust warned us not to get too attached and we always bear in mind that his owner must be missing him so much and will need him back as soon as he is more recovered. Whilst we will always remember and cherish Nip, we know that he will help speed up his owner's recovery and contribute to his wellbeing and quality of life."

Maria and **Jeff Smith** in Oxfordshire soon fell in love with Izzy:



“An email came through the beginning of September asking if we could foster a 7-year-old Jack Russell, short-term, whilst her owner was in hospital. Little did we know that this little dog would worm her way into our hearts so quickly. She was brought with her bed, toys and food on a Sunday morning, when we had just got back from a trip in our motorhome. Our bungalow had to be inspected by her, followed by a thorough inspection of our

back garden. At one point I thought she had got stuck behind the shed, but she had the sense to reverse the way she had gone! After she was satisfied that she had checked everything out, she came in and promptly began to play with her toys.

Our own darling dog Alfie passed away quite unexpectedly the previous year at 13 years old. We missed him dearly, but I remembered we had got him a small tennis type ball from when he first arrived. I rolled it to Izzy and she found the squeak in it that I didn't know existed! That squeak was short lived and she lost interest in it, preferring her own toys again.

There are several walks across the Welcombe Hills near our home and Izzy loved them all. Sometimes we went with the other dogs in the road, as she was accepted by all of them. With permission, we went away for a week in the motorhome and Izzy was in her element. We went for walks along the canal and Izzy tried to board those canal boats which had gangplanks down. The pub nearby was dog friendly so we didn't have to leave her on her own on evenings when we went for a meal. We visited a few towns. Devizes has a small indoor market, including a pet stall. My husband thought it was getting too crowded and started to take Izzy out. I found a toy on the stall and squeezed it to see if it squeaked; it did and my poor husband was dragged back in to investigate. It was a big purple and orange toy but that didn't dissuade her. She grabbed the toy out of my hand and I had no choice but to buy it. Izzy carried that toy all through Devizes and everyone was pointing and laughing including us.

Izzy is a loving dog. Whenever one of us sat down, she would jump on our laps and lick our arms. If we sat together, she wanted to sit between us. Night times in the motorhome, she slept at the bottom of my bed, but would jump over to my husband's bed in the morning to greet him as he woke up. She became a huge presence in our lives.

She showed us that we are ready to open our hearts and home to another dog. Izzy lifted our spirits and got us out walking more than we normally did. Our home is empty without her so we look forward to fostering her or another dog if the need arises."



And from Dorset, **Steve Clark** says:

"It has been our pleasure to walk Brian's dog, Lewis, a Bichon x Yorkshire Terrier, twice a week since May last year. Lewis is a lively, handsome and inquisitive little fellow, although a little wary of visitors and keen to protect his owner from strangers. Lewis had a canine companion, a Golden Retriever X Beagle called Millie who sadly passed away in July. Brian needed some extra help, as he is unable to walk Lewis due to ill health. My wife Sue and my youngest son Kaden (12) often accompany Lewis and me on our walks.



In mid-August Brian was found collapsed in his home by his other Cinnamon Trust dog walker, Sophie. She showed great presence of mind and calmness, summoned an ambulance and called The Cinnamon Trust. Brian was taken to hospital and we were contacted by The Trust and Lewis came to stay with us while Brian was in hospital. Although he was very nervous and anxious at first, having lost his lifelong companion Millie a few weeks earlier and now parted from his owner, this was understandable. As the days went on, Lewis grew in confidence and was soon making himself very much at home in his new environment and developed a strong bond with all the family and, particularly, with Kaden.

We found a lot of new places for walks and Lewis clearly enjoyed his little holiday. Fortunately, Brian was well enough to be discharged from hospital after about 10 days and when we took Lewis back to Brian it was a reunion that would bring tears to the eyes. You don't really know what goes on in a dogs head, but Lewis probably thought he would never see Brian again and his joy at being reunited was unconfined.

We still walk Lewis 2 or 3 times a week and he is always pleased to see us and, of course, very happy to be back home with Brian."



Paddy lives in Norfolk, he's a clever boy & with a little help from **Sue Smith** he wrote to tell us about his Big Adventure:



Paddy with his friend Max

“Hello – I’m Paddy! I’m a Norfolk Terrier cross of indeterminate age (I think young!). My mum has been in hospital for a while, so I’ve been staying with my aunty Sue who walks me for The Cinnamon Trust. I’m sorry my mum is unwell but – boy, have I been having a fabulous time!

Sue shares her house with Gracie who is an 11-month-old Border Terrier. We’re absolutely the best of friends now – she shares all her toys with me and I’m learning to play tug and chase and generally run around. We go for at least two walks a day

round the village and there’s lots of other dogs to meet and greet on the playing field. Every Sunday we go for a long walk at Shouldham Woods with Trixie the Wire-Fox Terrier plus Max and Shadow, the two Huskies. Lots of lovely sniffs and squirrels to chase and treats at the end!

But, best of all, we went on holiday together - to the Peak District for a week! Gracie, myself, and our two besties Max and Shadow. Sue took her campervan where we slept. Max and Shadow’s mum, Emma, rented a static caravan on the same park - Longnor Woods - very remote! The plan was lots of walking and eating cake - and the holiday went exactly to plan! Every day we explored a new area and every evening we had our tea in Emma’s caravan and chilled out together. We walked the Monsal Trail (an old railway line turned into a footpath) with three very scary tunnels that dripped on you as you walked through! Then we walked around the full length of Ladybower/Derwent Water reservoir (6.5 miles) and saw some wonderful autumn foliage. My feet got a bit sore here so Sue put me in her doggy rucksack and carried me for the last couple of miles (I like that style of travelling!). The Peak District is very dog friendly. We walked around the village of Castleton where even the jewellers had tins of dog treats in their shops which they willingly shared! The Huskies drew the attention then people realised that there were two extremely cute and friendly little Terriers alongside. We basked in adulation!!

In Bakewell there is a very good pet shop called Barks – it welcomes dogs and has treats displayed at just the right height. Well, it would be rude not to sample, wouldn’t it? Sue and Emma left with purses that were much lighter!! But I can recommend the home-made doggie doughnuts and gingerbread dogs! We then had to sample Bakewell Pudding and luckily the shop owner liked dogs so gave

us a huge bag of hog roast to share too!! Life doesn't get any better! Except that it does! We visited Chatsworth to have tea with the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire (well, in their café!). It is a beautiful estate to walk around - I had to guide everyone out of the maze of course! They were hosting a huge Christmas market, with more doggy treat stalls as well as Christmas presents for the humans. Again, there were lots of other doggies to meet and greet. Several had Equafleece coats to keep them warm and dry; I looked longingly at Sue and guess what? My new coat arrived this morning! Snug as a bug! Chatsworth also has a not-so-secret weapon - the Chatsworth Farm Shop. Wow! Like Harrods of the North - but not with silly prices. Gracie and I sampled the ham and Max and Shadow sampled the beef and we all declared it was the best we had tasted! Sue and Emma didn't do badly either – home-made pizza and lots of cheeses!

Sadly, all holidays come to an end and after 7 days it was time to return to Norfolk and my Mum who was out of hospital. Can't wait to tell her all about my adventures!"



We have 1066 pets in lifelong foster homes at the moment, time to catch up with a few of them ...

Poppy lives in Lincolnshire with **Dave** and **Liz Noble**:

"A 7-year-old rough haired Jack Russell called Poppy came into our lives in 2018. Her mistress had been very poorly and a Cinnamon Trust volunteer had been walking Poppy for her. She had been with foster parents for several weeks, but they sadly could not keep her.

She was very nervy but also had a nosey streak. We went for a walk almost immediately to try to settle her and she got a shock as tractors, trailers and joggers came by and she seemed terrified - we live in a village so these things are permanent. After a few days we decided to call into the local and she seemed fine – it appeared to me that she had visited a pub before and enjoyed the admiration of everyone (she is a very pretty girl, as you can see).



At home, she was very quiet and didn't seem to want to play at all probably missing her owner. It is such a lot for a dog to understand. Despite our ideas of where she might sleep, she came into bed with us and said "this is where I sleep now thank you". And, when she eventually barked, we were such proud parents!

After about 3 months her fearfulness of dogs remained the same so, with the help and advice of The Trust, we contacted a recommended dog behaviourist, Gemma. She was marvellous visiting us at home over 3 - 4 months. Firstly, she advised us to get a harness for Poppy so we were all under more control - to be honest the help was 90 per cent for us and 10 per cent for Poppy - and I began to cook chicken and carrots daily for treats. To cut a long story short, it all worked eventually, and she is now the friendliest dog around BUT still gives children a wide berth.

While we were in the pet shop buying the harness she heard a squeaky ball and a new world opened up. No idea how to play with it, but rarely to be seen or heard without one in her mouth now - always taking one to bed (5 to choose from at the moment) She now chases, throws and hides balls pretty well nonstop - so lovely to see.

Having found her confidence, along came lockdown which confused her completely. All those friends/fans couldn't come close for hugs and compliments but being Poppy she found a way. Every time the doorbell went it was an opportunity to find a new friend and there were LOTS of deliveries with people and packages and parcels to explore. What fun!

Last week, on a sunny day, we called into the local for fish and chips in their garden and Poppy was thrilled to be back, taking it in her stride and lying in the sun with her old pal Barney (he taught her to dare to walk through the ford). She seems to love village life where you get to know everyone. She has a ramp now to help get in and out of the car - very independent, doesn't like to be helped. It's harder to jump up onto the bed, too!

The Cinnamon Trust have been wonderful, always there to help, we can't thank them enough for letting us look after Poppy. She is marvellous company and has made such a difference to our lives."

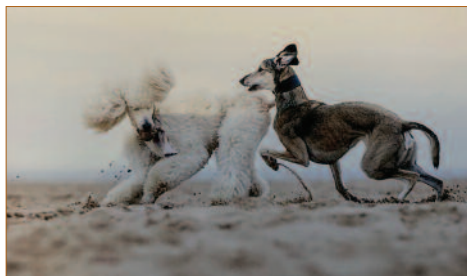


Alison Johnson's view from Lancashire, the happiness & the sadness ...

"On 12 October 2012 I received a telephone call from The Cinnamon Trust asking if I could look after a Lurcher for 6 weeks while her owner was undergoing medical treatment. After checking that the dog would be safe with my two other dogs and guinea pigs, I agreed. I collected Koona from her owner on 14 October along with her huge bed, coat and two bin bags full of toys. Unfortunately, Koona was not able to return to her owner

so ended up coming to stay with me as a long-term foster.

Koona immediately made friends with my Standard Poodle, Skye, and, from that day on, where one was the other was not too far behind. They were both approximately the same age and were partners in crime. They played together, slept together and plotted together. My other dog, Ebony, who is slightly older (and an awful lot smaller) really did not reckon much to this new addition and tended to leave them to it, but all in all they rubbed along ok.



Koona and Skye

Having never had a sighthound before, I had a steep learning curve. Apparently, Lurchers are excellent thieves, and it doesn't matter what it is as long as it is edible! It didn't take me long to realise that if it wasn't on top of the fridge or the microwave, it wasn't safe – Koona was a tall dog when she stood on her hind legs! In her time with us, I lost count of the things she stole, but I can remember the most bizarre. There was the full packet of dark chocolate digestives – the vet asked for the cocoa content which I could find on the packet apparently, however as she had eaten the packet too this meant a visit to the vets to make her sick! There was the 3kg of cockatiel seed that she took out of a cupboard while I was at work; the 500g of Pontefract cakes (that was not pretty but she held on through the night and shot out like a bullet in the morning!) There was the cake made for the Queen's Jubilee complete with bright red fondant icing, edible silver balls and glitter and little fabric Union Jacks – it all went down and it all came out the other end – very colourful and with a little flag sticking out! The last time she stole was at my sister's house one Christmas. Some sausages had been left on the worktop beside a Yule Log which was on a cut-glass heirloom plate. We heard the crash and, as we charged down the hall one way, we met Koona coming in the opposite direction at speed. We found her cowering behind the sofa. From that day on, she never stole another thing – it must have frightened her so badly it completely cured her!

Koona loved to run particularly if she had something in her mouth. However, she couldn't catch a ball and always overshot and had to come back for it. I had to hold on to my other dog until Koona had the ball then let her go otherwise Skye would always get there first. Watching Koona run was poetry in motion and I have a good few pictures of her enjoying a good run. We enjoyed a bit of rally obedience and agility together, but Koona was really more interested in a comfy bed and a warm fire or radiator.

In the summer, we got new neighbours who have 4 cats – Koona thought it was

her birthday! Those cats never learned not to come into the garden and Koona spent a lot of time on cat patrol! She also liked to scream at the squirrels we encountered on our walks.

After being on holiday we noticed that Koona was not at all herself and was not eating. We went to the vets a few times and she seemed to improve and then one night she ate most of her tea that night but then stopped eating completely. After a few days it became very obvious that there was something very wrong with her and she was gravely ill and after speaking to the vets and The Trust Koona passed away, peacefully, in her sleep. It all happened so quickly.

Run free at the Rainbow Bridge, Koona. Then find the deepest, softest bed in front of the warmest fire and sleep tight. Love you forever.”



Anita and **David Smith** in Norfolk are so happy to care for **Daisy, Sully** and **Molly**:

“It is a joy to have Daisy, Sully and Molly in our lives after the terrible loss of Amber our own cat. The Trust phoned to ask if there was any possibility of us taking the cats and said there were three from the same family, we could not imagine separating them, and so taking all three was an easy decision.

The love and care they received from Jenny, their other Mum, shines through them. They are all gentle, happy little girls, playful, and affectionate.

Molly, the nervous girl took a couple of nights to find her courage but now she mainly sunbathes, sits with us, or is busy running around with the others. If she wants an “I want to be alone” moment, she goes behind the settee for a while for some peace and quiet.



Daisy



Molly



Sully

Daisy spent the first two days making sure Sully and Molly were okay and now loves her big basket or sitting on Dave's lap being stroked.

Little Sully loves sunbathing in her favourite chair – she's helping me with this letter (sorry about the smudges!).

They all love to race from room to room chasing each other after meals, and then settling for a brush and a purr. Window watching and following behind us are also high on the entertainment list.

It is also wonderful to talk to Jenny about them and we send her photos so she can be reassured they are happy and well. She is a lovely lady and feels like a friend that has entrusted to us the care of her most precious companions. It is a privilege and honour to continue to care for them all in the way she has.

Thank you again for all of your help and for bringing these bundles of joy into our lives.”

And **Jenny Yardley** says:

“I am a devoted member of The Cinnamon Trust and, due to extreme illness and loss of my legs I have had to give up my 3 beautiful cats into their care; Daisy and Sully, sisters aged 10, and Molly aged 4. The Cinnamon Trust put me in contact with Anita and David who, luckily for me and my girls, have been able to give all 3 cats a wonderful home on the Norfolk Broads where they will be loved and cared for. A big thank you to them for giving my cats a lovely home in a bungalow in woods with wildlife and lots of trees.

My mind is at rest and I know I did the right thing. God bless you Cinnamon Trust for putting all three cats together, I know they are looked after and loved by Anita and David who are now great friends.

Please give all you can in donations and loving care. This is truly the friendliest and most sincere charity and I cannot thank them enough for the love and attention given in finding my girls the very best home possible.

God bless you all, members and staff. May you all prosper always.”



Ashley Knowlton in Oxfordshire writes:

“I applied to dog walk for The Cinnamon Trust shortly after moving to the UK from the USA and was immediately drawn to the prospect of not only getting to spend



time with dogs, but to also help people in some way. I loved the ethos of The Cinnamon Trust, and how they enable those unable to fully care for their pets to still enjoy the companionship that is often essential to their lives.

A while after signing up, I was asked if I could walk four dogs for an elderly woman in a nearby estate. Four dogs! It seemed like quite a lot, but I knocked on the door to Sue's home and was greeted

by their friendly owner and three bundles of sausage-shaped fluff - the petite Lucy, who her later foster mum would call "Mary Berry embodied in a miniature Dachshund"; the portly, grumbly Freddie, and the smiley, equally portly Otto. I wondered where the fourth was. "Oh, Tibby," Sue said, beckoning me inside and through to the conservatory. "She didn't hear you. She's completely deaf. Let's go get her". The three Dachshunds followed us, still woofing, reluctant to leave Sue's side. In the conservatory, there was a glowing halo of white fluff sound asleep on the sofa. Sue tapped her gently and brilliant blue eyes opened and fixed on me. So, this was Tibby...

Despite their similarities in fluffiness and size, Tibby would prove to be unlike her doggy siblings in almost every way. Where Lucy, Freddie, and Otto were reluctant to leave each other's company, Tibby was happy to go it alone, enjoying the relative freedom of a retractable lead to wander the green to her heart's content, sniffing every clump of grass for any signs of the neighbourhood cats. The Dachshunds couldn't abide a dog walk longer than twenty to thirty minutes, as being away from Sue any longer was intolerable; Tibby would love little adventures down footpaths and to the local wildlife park, where she could people-watch and the emus could watch her as though they were trying to figure out what exactly she was. She proved popular with other guests as well, with children squealing delightedly at the sight of what seemed to be a real, living teddy bear, and their parents enamoured with Tibby's unusual eyes. Due to her deafness, I had to be

careful with her around traffic, and couldn't let her off-lead - though it became apparent that even if she could hear me, there would be quite a lot of selective listening.



The famous four

In the time I walked the four dogs, it became clear that despite Sue's cheeriness, her health was declining. She was always matter-of-fact with me,

and I appreciated her forthrightness so that I knew what to expect on my visits. However, toward the end, the decline was quite sudden, and I worked with Sue and The Cinnamon Trust to help come up with ideas on what would happen to the four dogs. Of course the Daxi's had to stay together, but Tibby had different needs so it was agreed with all parties that he should come and live with me. A lovely couple called Becky and Sam took on the Daxi's and you have featured them before in your newsletter, they are lovingly known as 'The sausages'.

Sadly, Sue passed away and Lucy, Freddie, and Otto went to live with Becky and Sam, and were instantly just as at home there as they had been with Sue. Considering their attachment to Sue, it speaks volumes of how much love and affection Becky and Sam were able to give them. I, as promised, had Tibby and the four were able to meet up for dog walks and visits before Lucy and Freddie passed away the following year. Tibby and Otto are still able to meet up occasionally now, as well as with Otto's new foster-sister, Lily.

That all happened over five years ago now and we can't imagine life without Tibby. While Tibby enjoyed and enjoys doggy companionship, she does seem to thrive in a household where she can soak up attention and claim the cosiest sleeping spots (preferably two-foot deep in blankets) for herself.

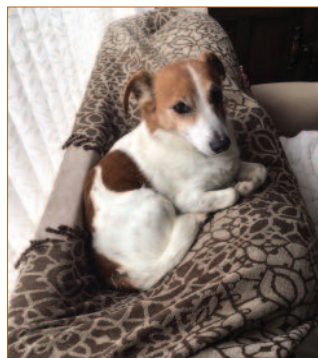
She's independently cured more than a few people of dog-phobia, and inspired them to adopt dogs of their own. True to her Tibetan Spaniel instincts, she loves to channel her ancestors and sit on top of the Himalayas (the stairs) to play watchdog and warn us of potential invaders. She knows a few hand signals that she sometimes chooses to listen to. She is becoming increasingly cat-like as she grows older, and has developed a liking for tuna, curling up in cardboard boxes and playing with catnip toys. She makes no apologies for this - she is only living up to the Tibetan Spaniel's reputation as a 'cat-like' breed. She's now past 12 and still spritely despite some stiff joints, and is often mistaken for a puppy."



Snoopy has found love with **Dave** and **Jean Farrell** in Devon.

"Having lost our last dog to cancer, we thought there would be no more dogs for us, although the house was a little too quiet. Then someone told us about The Cinnamon Trust and the result is Snoopy.

He came to us in the midst of the pandemic and proved to be our saviour, he gets us out of the house, which is great, even if he dictates the length of the



walk, as he certainly has a mind of his own. When he first arrived he was quiet and timid, although the sight and sound of the postman brought him to life, but with a bit of time and patience he has come out of his shell. We thought he wasn't interested in toys at all but he proved us wrong and will play with them often.

Snoopy loves to welcome our son home from work because he knows he will get lots of fuss. When he is not sat on the arm of my chair with me, he can be found on the back of the sofa watching the world outside or falling asleep.

Food? Well, we are still trying to work out his funny habit of a little dance forward and backwards before starting to eat. He also seems to like the challenge of searching for his food in and under his bed.

Snoopy has the run of the house and has often come up to our bed in the small hours; he loves to get right in under the covers and will happily stay there for a couple of hours - although he is a small dog, he often ends up with most of the bed with my husband and I on the outer edges!

Volunteering to foster with The Cinnamon Trust was the best move we ever made; all the people we have spoken to have been so nice and kind, and we've ended up with a delightful little dog who has made our lives complete once again, so we send our sincere thanks for making this possible. I am not sure these words convey all the pleasure we get from Snoopy, we simply love him to bits".



And **Tallulah** rules the roost in Cornwall with **Kasia Drinkwater**



"Tallulah is loving the longer days and has already caught her first shrew and bird of the season (she very kindly brought them into the house alive so we were able to intercept and rescue them much to her dismay. I'm sure she'll be bringing them back in again any day now). My partner and I work in construction so we've been working through lockdown, albeit with an increased presence at home which Tallulah has embraced. She's recognised by all my colleagues now and makes a regular appearance on team calls; she particularly likes showing her face on the more serious client meetings and board meetings.... She seems to just know how to really nail the timing!

She's eating well and has taken eagerly to the drinking fountain we introduced recently (who says she's high maintenance?!). She still has the silkiest and softest coat of any cat I've ever felt, but perhaps I'm biased!

She's continues to be an absolute joy; we find ourselves just spending afternoons and weekends watching her 'catting about' and just going about her day. And she most definitely knows how obsessed we are with her! It's been just over two years and we're still seeing her character slowly open up and develop. She came to us as a really hardy, feisty Tortie that would barely tolerate fuss or cuddles or too much interaction.

We now have a routine where she listens out for us getting ready for bed. As soon as she can hear we're heading off, she's sat patiently waiting by her teaser toy at the foot of our bed, and demands an intense play session before anyone's allowed to sleep. Conversely, her favourite time for cuddles is always perfectly timed; in the morning once I've pressed snooze for the last time and gather the strength to get out of bed and get ready for work, she finds herself curled up under my chin (more often than not I daren't disturb her because, frankly, it's just too cute!).

She's an absolute joy and she's definitely embraced being a countryside cat and is making the most of the fields and woodland to explore, as well as an abundance of sleeping spots, as I type this she's curled up next to me in her window seat after what was no doubt a tough morning gallivanting in the neighbouring field."



Gail Downy (Warwickshire) is spellbound by **Jenny!**

"Whoever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks has never met Jenny (aka Jennifer Rocket). This enchanting Jack Russell cross came to me when her owner passed away. Initially she was to be a short term foster but, as soon as I saw her, she stole my heart.

Strangely enough, I had spoken to the long-term fostering team at The Trust a few weeks before about taking on a dog full-time. There were just two things I asked of them... the dog mustn't have goggly eyes and it must be small enough to live with me in my two up two down. There wouldn't be room for anything like a Labrador or German Shepherd – unless I moved out.



Jenny was quiet at first. Silently watching what went on. Taking it all in, sleeping a lot and adjusting to her new home and to me. Gradually though her ebullient personality began to show. She became alert to the opening of the fridge – her face suddenly appearing at the kitchen door. She loved running down the garden to chase off the birds and any cat intruders. She also realised a trip in the car meant a walk in a new place with new smells and new adventures.

On a walk she is always on a mission. She is the bossiest (and often smallest dog) in the park. I like to think she is my sidekick, but it is more the other way round. In her opinion, she is Batman and I am Robin.

So far, we have travelled long journeys in the car, stayed in hotels, at friends' homes and been in and out of London on the train. She's tried dog activity courses – the tunnel is her favourite. Nothing fazes her and we are planning more adventures this year too.

She makes it clear when she wants her treats with a cross between a low growl and a bark. During lockdown I decided she would make a good sniffer dog if my work ran out.... so hid treats under plastic cups, under mats and cushions the chair. She runs around in hunting mode with her little docked tail wagging furiously from side to side.

My niece entered her into a number of online competitions with classes such as best rescue, best veteran etc.

I recently took her to training sessions with The Dogs Trust. It was very useful for me to get an insight into how dogs see the world, why they react the way they do and what we can do to support them.

I'm fortunate that most of the time I can work from home. When I do have to be out of the house, I have good support with local doggy day care who pick her up and bring her back. She and the owner's Jack Russell spend their time sniffing around the boundaries of her fields, giving disdainful looks at the dogs who want to run around and chase. That's not for Jenny; she would rather uncover some new scent, find some new adventure.

A friend described dog sniffing as the equivalent of us reading a newspaper. I suspect in Jenny's case, my dearest, smartest little dog, it would be The Financial Times."



Katie has **Graham Card** (Hampshire) enthralled!

life? A 10-year-old Border Collie full of energy and stamina; 6 miles walk a day is not enough, she still wants more! When she does sleep she either sleeps on the stairs but she mostly likes to sleep on the bed with me.

A gentle nudge usually about 6.30am tells me “come on Dad, get up I need to go outside, oh and is it breakfast time I'm hungry” (well, she is always hungry). So, I feed her and try and grab another slack hour in bed, but someone else has other ideas.

After I've had my breakfast and washed up, I put my walking shoes on (or, should I say, try to put them on because we are up for playing either with the ball or swinging from the rope toy!). Eventually I am nearly ready for our morning walk; as soon as I lock the back doors it's as if she is psychic, she can't contain herself, barking with delight, on with the harness and lead and we're off - she takes me for a walk!



Katie is very good with people and children, but not so keen on cars. Half a mile and we're on the common or a 2 mile river walk. If we're by the river she likes to paddle, taking no interest in swans, ducks etc. Katie can be hit and miss with other dogs, but she now has a new friend called Becca who she gets on famously with.

She has recently had a spa day and complete makeover and she looked a million dollars! She was very spoilt by everyone and really enjoyed the whole experience, she knew how pretty she looked that's for sure. She enjoyed it so much I have booked her in again in a couple of months' time.

I could not imagine being without her, she is absolutely gorgeous and I treasure every moment with her.”



Roxy enjoys life with **James** and **Sarah Thomas** in Cornwall

“It was the spring of 2013 and after a nomadic few years we had finally settled down. We had just got married, bought our first house and our thoughts had turned to starting a family. The first addition we wanted to make was a pet!

We liked the idea of fostering or adopting a pet and some friends of ours told us about The Cinnamon Trust. At first, we volunteered to walk dogs for people and although we enjoyed this, we decided that having a dog wasn't for us.

We received an email asking if we would be interested in adopting a cat called Roxy, whose owner had died. Roxy was living in a foster home at the time but she couldn't stay there long term as it was on a main road and she wasn't able to go outside.

We were sent a picture of Roxy, who was 6-years-old at the time. She was a rather large, beautifully fluffy and completely black cat with bright green eyes. We just knew instantly that she was to be the next member of our household.

We had a visit from The Cinnamon Trust to check we had a suitable home for Roxy and to answer any questions we had. We were amazed to hear that any vet bills would be covered by The Trust for the rest of Roxy's life, which gave us peace of mind. Luckily we were given the green light to adopt her.

James picked her up and brought her to live with us. She was very timid at first and hid behind the sofa. She didn't like to be picked up and it took a while before she would sit anywhere near us. I remember us often trying and coax her to sit on our laps for a stroke but she was rarely persuaded.

After a couple of weeks, we unlocked the cat flap and let her go outside. It was so lovely to see her enjoying the outdoors after so long indoors. She quickly jumped over the fence into our neighbour's back garden and we were worried we might lose her, but luckily she came back to us.

After a few months, she was settled in and well established in our little family of three, which was soon to become four.... Phoebe was born in October 2014. Roxy took one look at her and ran out of the house in horror. She returned shortly after and accepted her fate; the baby was here to stay.

Around this time Roxy went from never wanting to sit on our laps to wanting nothing more - especially at the most inconvenient times! She always wanted to be where we were and followed us from room to room; she even started to follow us whenever we went out for a walk.

We moved to a new house at the end of 2015, within the same village. She settled into her new surroundings brilliantly, although the postman often said he saw her walking around our old street. Our second daughter Jessica arrived in 2016 which didn't faze Roxy at all. She was a dab hand at cohabiting with little people by now!

There has been so much change in the seven years since we welcomed Roxy into our family and she has adapted so brilliantly to it all. She really is a special and exceptionally friendly cat. She brazenly wanders in and out of our neighbour's houses and she loves to follow us to the park. She laps up attention from children and adults alike, always welcoming a good stroke from anyone she meets.

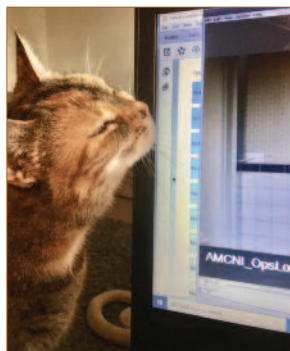
Roxy has just celebrated her 15th birthday which means she is 76 in cat years! We would say she is showing no signs of slowing down, but to be honest she's never been the most energetic of cats! We do think she looks amazing for her age though and we are hoping she has many more cat years ahead of her.

She may have some annoying habits, such as her fussy eating, her penchant for sleeping in the middle of roads (luckily we live in a quiet area) and trying to follow us when we walk in the surrounding fields and struggling to keep up and then wailing loudly until we're out of earshot, making us feel really guilty. But we wouldn't change her for the world and we are so happy that we have had the chance to look after her. We can only hope that we've brought as much love and happiness to her life as she has to ours."



Molly needed a fair bit of TLC from **Jill Crouch** in Suffolk:

"I was devastated when I had to say goodbye to my beloved canine soulmate Nora and felt I could never have another pet and go through the bereavement process again. About six months later the lack of a furry presence in the house was more and more noticeable and, although I'm not sure I could ever have a dog again, I contacted The Cinnamon Trust about the possibility of adopting a cat. The home check was done and I soon saw dear Molly's photo on your Facebook page and fell in love!



As it unfolded we found out that Molly had belonged to twin sisters who lived in York. Both now passed on but they had been famous because of a programme about them, they dressed and did everything together. They even said the same sentences at the same time.

Molly was obviously loved but she was what the vets described as 'morbidly obese.' The saddest thing was she was suffering a bit of nappy rash because of her inability to groom and had a bald tail which meant she was quite uncomfortable. With the help of the vet and a lot of perseverance with cream being administered daily (which poor Molly hated) it all paid off. A strict diet took off 2 kilos and she was a completely different cat.

She was very timid when she arrived and stayed behind the sofa for several weeks but gradually overcame her shyness and now is a regular 'lap cat' even sleeping on the bed sometimes! She has also started to play and loves chasing balls of foil around the house, and also chasing her own tail...

Molly has enriched life greatly and I am indebted to The Cinnamon Trust for her. Although she came a long way (from Yorkshire to Suffolk!) I know she was meant to join the household!"



Michelle Dudot in Cambridgeshire has two beautiful dachshunds, they all needed help – Michelle says:

"I would love to tell my story - as soon as the dogs started a walkies routine it had a knock on effect on their wellbeing and helped me keep happy boys.



Elton and Nelson

Ruth, Beverly and Hannah are wonderful ladies, the dogs just love them and trust them. Elton, 12 years, is diabetic and needs careful attention when walking. Nelson, 13 years, is a year older and can tire quickly. Both walkers take care of them telling me of anything unusual.

For me it's great peace of mind as they were going downhill health wise due to lack of exercise. A walk to a dog is very empowering: they smell other animals, mark the territory, re-learn their area and exercise muscles that keep them fit.

Without The Cinnamon Trust I would be worrying about them after I die. I also I have a parrot called Charlie who is 25 years old and he will also go to The Trust when I die.

It gives me great comfort and peace knowing my lovely pets will be safe after my death."



Kirstie Godwin-Day wrote to us about her Mum, Dad & Scottie, **Islay**:

"My Mum and Dad moved into their retirement apartment in Penzance at the end of January 2020 with their Scottie, Islay. My Dad had had several strokes and suffered with a weak heart (a combination of which had impaired his mobility) and so over time my Mum had become his carer. But then my Mum had a stroke in October 2019 and they found it difficult to cope in the family home which was now too big for them. As I lived in Cornwall, we agreed they would sell their house and move to be nearer to me. Islay loved her holidays in Cornwall and adores the sea so Mum knew that Islay would be happy in Penzance.

I knew Mum was struggling to walk Islay so I got in contact with The Cinnamon Trust who were recommended to me by Kernow Carers Service. They were excellent and found Mum some lovely walkers who take Islay out for longer walks than she is able to – woodland rambles and beachcombing. One lady comes with her young daughter and their dog and Islay loves the company. Now Islay has a very full social life. Every time the buzzer from the lobby goes Islay leaps up and her tail springs into life as she always thinks it's someone for her (invariably, it is!).



When Islay is out on one of her walks Mum often uses the time to have a nap. She is also feeling less guilty about not being able to take Islay out so much and not being able to take her for long walks. So not only does Islay enjoy it, but it has been a huge help to Mum and her recovery.

I'm so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust and their volunteers for what they do. They have such a positive impact on the lives of those they help – both human and canine!"



And **Terry Jankowski** in Devon is so grateful:

Hi - I'm Terry and I wanted to let you know what a brilliant charity The Cinnamon Trust is for people like me who can keep their much loved dogs at home with their owners, in unforeseen circumstances. I'm disabled and housebound and tried to advertising in the papers for a dog walker for my darling companion Benji, but the help turned out to be very unreliable. So, I contacted a professional, but he had to walk with up to 5 other dogs which was unsafe and very expensive.



I'd heard about The Cinnamon Trust and contacted them - not really expecting they would find someone for me. They were fantastic. Even though I've moved to another area recently (I desperately needed a bungalow - for myself and little Benji who has hip problems) they've been able to find me wonderful, caring walkers, who have all become really good friends.

Most of my dog walker friends say they'd love a dog, but many work away from

home, or are in rented accommodation. They say it's ideal for them to be able to share in Benji's life, without having to buy a dog.

The Cinnamon Trust have been a lifeline to me and Benji - I couldn't have kept Benji without them, and it would have been heart-breaking seeing him go to another home. I'm so grateful to the staff at The Trust, and of course, to my lovely dog walkers.



Luka greets Liz

Then we had a phone call from **Elizabeth Lowe** who was in St Julia's Hospice in Hayle which underlines why we do what we do & the pictures will bring a tear or two ... **Luka** was her beloved Gypsy Cob – we took him to visit:

"The day after Luka's visit I felt it important to get in touch with The Cinnamon Trust. Even though speaking on the phone has become more difficult for me and the support of a nurse would be needed to make this call, his visit

meant the world to me and I needed them to know that.



Luka, Liz and Ged

Luka's visit came as such a surprise as the nurse told me, just 30 minutes before he arrived, that he was coming to the hospice. I honestly believed she must have been mistaken as no way would they allow a horse to visit. So when he arrived you can imagine how incredible it felt for me to be the one mistaken! Not only did it lift me but also everyone else at the hospice, he definitely did what he did best and created a real buzz about the place.

Having him visit wasn't something I ever imagined was a possibility, I knew how much I missed him but I cannot describe how amazing and important it was to see him again. It was a very emotional time for everyone and has really shown the beauty of what The Cinnamon Trust does as a charity. Also, to find out how amazing the nurses have been to support this being able to happen as well as the extremely kind transport company (L&L Transport Redruth) who were fantastic with my boy and did all they did free of charge! Since the very beginning of my



relationship with The Trust, I have been reassured that Luka will always be loved and looked after by them. They have shown me that although natural to feel worried about what will happen to him in the future as any pet mum does, they will never let him down and will always do best by him.”

Elizabeth passed away two weeks later and Ged who works at Poldarves, has her own ponies and had been caring for Luka has now taken him on lifelong foster. They have a remarkable bond which would please Elizabeth so much.



Gold Awards for exceptional service have been given to:

Anne Wells (Sussex), **Eva Chesswas** (London), **Nicola Brader** and **Tim Stack** (Essex), **Karen Martine** and **Leanne Vickers** (Merseyside).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years of volunteering) go to:

Debbie Litchfield (Sussex), **Lucy O'Meara** (Sussex), **Barbara Wright** (Cheshire), **Val Beamish** (Cambridgeshire), **Jo Singer** (London), **Anne Hunter** (Dorset), **Joanne Tong** (Tyne and Wear), **Marion Radbourne** (Somerset), **Luisa Cooper** (Devon), **Dawn Farrow** (Cornwall), **Gary Allison** (Yorkshire), **Audrey Elliss** (Lincolnshire).

Special Owner Nominated Awards go to:

Marianne Denovan (Somerset), **Mary Flanagan** and **Stephanie Harper** (West Sussex), **John Bathurst** (Somerset), **Mark Holdaway** (Essex).

Thank you to all our registered volunteers, 18,647 at the last count! Doesn't matter how many times I repeat the obvious truth – we couldn't do what we do without you and the value of that is immeasurable. Love, care and time are priceless.



Pet Friendly Care Homes

Yogi, the Cocker Spaniel lives at **Burrows Hall Care Home** in Swansea with his owner **Ron**. Yogi was originally a hearing assistance dog but now spends his days relaxing at the home with Ron or having beach walks and fuss with the staff, present and retired, who have fallen in love with him and help with his care.



Yogi



Peanut and Tinker



Barney Blue

At **Hanover Gardens** (Frome) there is **Peanut**, a Jack Russel cross and **Tinker** who live with their owner **Sylvia** and bring joy to all with their playful escapades. And Tinker the cat, often goes walkies with Peanut – of her own accord!

Val Harber is well known to us all! Manager at **Hanover Walk** (Storrington), she has long been passionate about pets in care homes. Her own Cavapoo, **Barney Blue** comes to work with her and loves to do the rounds of cuddles with all the residents.



Harry



Daisy

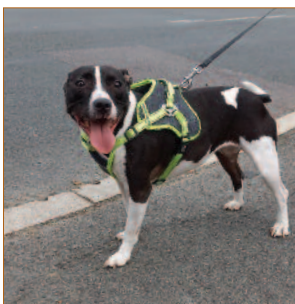
Harry the Boxer lives at **Woodside Lodge** (Christchurch) and apart from the treats and cuddles from the residents, he's helping train **Daisy**, the mischievous Labrador puppy who belongs to the manager **Charlotte Bale** and is learning to be a therapy dog.

The Chef at **Minchenden Lodge** (London) deserves a medal! He made a special doggy birthday cake for **Lola, Lisa Coombs's** Labrador! She rather likes joining in all the afternoon activities, invited or not, as does **Jinxy** the cat!

Danielle Cave, the Manager at **Hale Place** (Tonbridge) wrote to us. "We, at Hale Place, couldn't be more delighted with the work and support of The Cinnamon Trust."

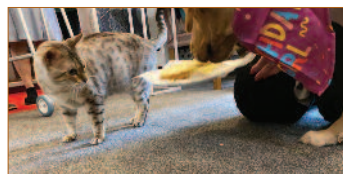


Lola



Scooby

We have a resident who spent a couple of years here happily with **Scooby**, her



Jinxy

Staffordshire Bull Terrier, in one of our supported houses but over the past few months her dementia increased and we realised she had to move into our supported dementia unit. Sadly not suitable for Scooby as she would not get on with the other dogs. This was upsetting for all the staff, who had grown to love Scooby particularly as her owner could no longer care for her and had lost the loving connection she had had with her beloved dog. We reached out to The Trust to see if they could help and without hesitation they said they could and between us we worked out a plan that would minimise any distress to all parties.

Without this smooth, supportive transition from The Cinnamon Trust the story could have been very different. They reassured us that the home they selected was to be her forever home and she would be loved and cared for the rest of her days. It's the hardest decision to rehome a much loved pet but knowing The Trust's selection process of the new forever fosterers made it easier to cope with. From all at Hale Place, we thank you."

Pam lives at **The Firs Independent Living Complex** (Nottingham) and she wrote:

"I lived in a large three bedroom house, half of which I did not use, I decided to move to The Firs Complex in Sherwood Nottingham.

They provide flats and bungalows for residents as independent living homes. My main problem was I have been an animal enthusiast all my life and even though I was 81, I still had a (not so) miniature dachshund called **Shimmy** and several canaries.

A warden called **Diane** showed me around the large complex and quickly assured me my dog and birds would be very welcome at The Firs. Although indoor cats are welcome in the flats, dogs are only allowed in the bungalows of which there are 17, as they have gardens and areas that can be low fenced.

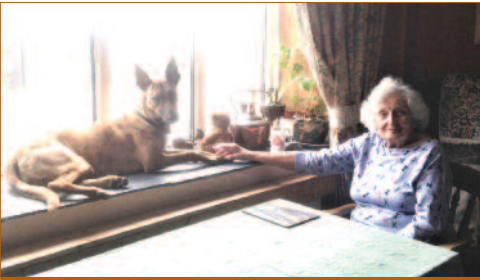
Shimmy was made very welcome by the staff and residents and he loves to visit them and join the residents in the gazebo which is in the grounds.

Many of the people here are perhaps no longer able to look after an animal but, I am sure, benefit from seeing and being able to stroke a dog.

We have lived at The Firs happily for nearly four years.

Venville House (Yelverton), adopted **Juniper** the Lurcher cross after losing a longstanding resident's dog to old age.

Juniper was a breath of fresh air into the house in difficult times. All of the residents



Jean & Juniper

are animal lovers and had been missing canine cuddles.

Jean and Juniper arrived at Venville House at the same time and bonded straight away. It didn't take Jean long to work out that Juniper wanted to look out the window, so she requested to have the window ledge cleared and it didn't take Juniper long to work out that if she

sat very patiently whilst Jean ate her bacon and egg each morning, she was assured a treat at the end!

On the days when Jean's dementia makes her feel confused and alone, Juniper is always there with a paw and ear and accepts that some days, she will be called Oscar. They can often be found enjoying each other's company and Juniper regularly joins Jean on her trips out. This special bond has also reassured Jean's family and given them some lovely memories to treasure.



Hillside Farm Sanctuary

A break in the weather, time to venture out on some lovely winter outings! With warm knitted coats and cosy blankets in the van we were all excited for new adventures. The local forests are always a favourite with the dogs and we are fortunate enough to have several close by to choose from, there are so many smells to be sniffed and different paths to explore. We also ventured on to the moors where the ponies were just as intrigued to see us as we were them, the streams and gorse bushes proved very popular with the dogs! A trip to our local reservoir was a great hit too, it is a busy walking area with lots of other dogs and



Lenna



Zoe

their walkers to meet and greet, there is a specially built mud hut which some of the dogs just had to check out, **Jake** was the most inquisitive and ventured right inside to have a good look. Our outings would not be complete without a visit or two to the beach. The dogs love the beach, most love paddling in the sea, but all seem to love the smell of the

washed-up seaweed, some even try to eat it! There was lots of splashing in the rockpools and in the breaking waves, **Vanja** and **Zoe**, both got caught out by some of the waves, which meant that their tummies had a good soaking, much to their surprise! **Andy** loved the sand and would not stop rolling on it, he was covered from nose to tail by the end of the trip, he just loved it.



We had a very special Valentine's dinner here! We put together a recreation of a famous scene from a certain animated film, involving spaghetti and meatballs and two very sweet dogs. Lots of preparation and organisation, the scene was set and **Vanja** and **Andy** were ready for their romantic rendezvous. Their acting was superb, although when it comes to meatballs and spaghetti there is never any hesitation to tuck in and that is just what they did! (Vanja, Swedish Vallhund aged 11 years, Andy, Westie aged 13 years).

Inevitably, life sadly came full circle when we lost **Fudge**, beautiful torti girl (13), **Dolly**, gentle black and white (16), **Rosey**, adorable tabby (15), **Tootsie**, amazing torti (21), **Moby**, gorgeous tabby boy (16), and another beautiful tabby, **Jenny** (18). We also lost **Jenny**, darling border terrier (17), **Sally**, our beautiful Bassett/Springer mix (15), **Mojo**, very handsome, very gentle Welsh Cob (23) and **Hettie**, stunning Sussex chicken (11).

All so greatly missed and lovingly remembered, our hearts filled with cherished memories.

Harbour Princess (20) was profiled with us. Her owner, only in her early 40s had a massive stroke and was unable to care for her. She was very lonely in a field on her own so her owner turned to us, and we're so pleased she did! Princess is a thoroughbred, big, beautiful and a lovely friendly nature. She has formed a strong bond with **Barney**, he is very protective of her and will step in between her and any advancing human until he knows it's safe. He does push his luck sometimes and tries to give her a nip whereupon she spins round and warns him with a little prance... he knows his place!



Princess loves her treat ball and will play with it for hours, she knows the routine and eagerly waits in the doorway of her open stable for her food to be delivered! She also loves head rubs and often catches us unawares as she comes up behind you and starts to rub her head on your back with a very firm nudge! When having her hooves picked she will elegantly stretch her legs out like a ballerina doing her exercises. Princess is a very graceful girl until it comes to mud. She does like to get covered in it to from head to tail, especially when she has a freshly washed rug on.



We have six new sheep too. They were also profiled with us and when their owner was having to sell up and move to supported living, they came here – all elderly ewes, **Torn-ear**, **Woolly Jumper**, **Shop Steward**, **Scatty Sheep**, **Limping Kerry** and **Anthea**! It was lovely to see their reaction on arrival – there was a bit of a stand-off between them and our own already resident sheep, **Liam**, **Lewis**, **Lucy** and **Victoria**

but within minutes they were all mingling. It was surprising to see Lewis, the boldest of sheep, back away from these elderly ladies – due respect, we feel, they do have a certain air of authority!



Rossi (16) came to join us when his owner died. He's a gorgeous, sweet boy. Bold, outgoing and he loves attention. He has a great appetite and adores fresh roast chicken. Rossi does love to sleep in the sink so we have to ensure it's always left clean, dry and empty. He thoroughly disapproves when he has to move so we can wash up! He's into everything that's going on and simply wants to investigate. He also likes being outside and he does zoomies round the gardens and comes in somehow completely covered in mud looking very pleased with himself – lots of attention to restore him to his handsome best!

Oh and **Jake** (12) what a boy! A Lancashire Heeler cross Staffie with bags of energy! He instantly made friends with **Leena**, they are so sweet when they play together,



they jump around each other, bowing and prancing and then chase round and round. Jake does headstands when he is excited for a fuss, he puts his bottom in the air with this little tail/stump wagging and wiggling – he also rolls his head on the toys he's playing with! On a walk, he just has to explore every hole in the field banks, sniff out the wildlife, exercise the pheasants. And all that means he has a great appetite, he loves all food and treats.

Leena (14½) is such a sweetheart. She's a gorgeous Staffie and very gentle. When she's not playing with her best friend Jake, completely belying her age, she does like to curl up in a blanket and she wraps it tight around herself 'til there's just this darling face on show! She's a bit of a foodie as well to the extent that she has been known to pinch the salad as it is being prepared for the tortoises – she not only enjoys it but comes back for more! Walks are at her pace as every sniff has to be investigated, categorised and 'filed'!

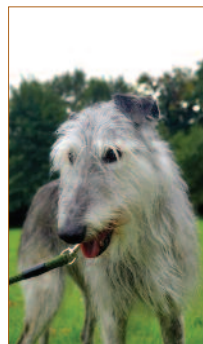


Angel (11¾) is aptly named, very beautiful, just one look and she'll melt your heart. She loves everybody and she's a true Labrador when it comes to her food! Angel is in her heaven when she can snuggle up with you for cuddles on the sofa, and if you go to move, she gently sighs as if to say "please don't", and you can't resist staying put that little bit longer! She also has a very loud snore as she sleeps so soundly and so peacefully. Angel takes everything in her stride and at her own pace – she's a girl who, without doubt, knows her own mind, knows what she wants and knows how to get it!



Annie (13) is a big girl and so gentle, a Wolfhound/Lurcher mix, and it really shows when she's wandering around, not a care in the world and suddenly bursts into racing mode and then comes back to her serene dignified, regal self! She is very elegant...

We would all love to know where Annie puts her food – she'll eat for England but remains so sleek and slender! Annie had been at the Old Vicarage in Wiltshire, one of our pet friendly care homes, with her owner but when her dementia deteriorated rapidly she started mistreating Annie, so they called us for help. We are so happy to have her with us...



We had to extend our tortoise accommodation for our next animal, **Timmy** (60) a spur-thighed tortoise. He's a very active boy with a huge appetite – meals are served and devoured in the blink of an eye! He's very taken with our Smash and Grab but sometimes too taken – and he has to be quickly separated as they do not appreciate his advances! Timmy likes to put his head under the water and drink when he's in his bath! To start with we thought he was in trouble, but no, this is a Timmy thing and he does it all the time!



We do hope that the worst of the wind and rain is

now behind us, with signs of spring everywhere and birds beginning to occupy all the boxes around Hillside, our thoughts are turning to summer – field picnics, sports day fun and games, BBQs and a whole lot more!



Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

The primroses, cowslips and daffodils are such a very welcome sight! Spring is here



and we couldn't be more pleased about that...winter storms have been many and fierce. First among equals was Eunice and while she raged outside the dogs hunkered down in front of the fire and had a "duvet day" – they ate lots of treats, watched their favourite movies



including *The Aristocats* and *Lady and the Tramp*. Some snored and stretched, some wanted rubs, all had cuddles ad lib! The cats were entertained with a Molly's Mice hide and seek party, finding the catnip mice under cushions, in boxes, under blankets and they even found a treat or two! Great fun was had by all but especially **Bilbo** who thought he'd play Jack in the Box – he sat in his prized box, stayed there and jumped out at any and all invaders and interlopers!

Baby wouldn't venture out of her luxurious field shelter where she had everything a cow could possibly want on hand, water, ad lib hay and even a cow lick treat bucket! She was so cosy, tucked into her big fluffy bed of straw, definitely cow heaven.

Peppa Pig had a similar idea, burrowing into her own big straw bed with only her head poking out. She even had breakfast and dinner in bed.

On Pancake Day, all the dogs enjoyed delicious pancakes variously filled to suit



Blue can hardly wait



Lucy won't wait!

individual tastes and we had fun with a toss the pancake game. **Danny** and **Lucy** were best at catching them in mid-air, **Kai** had a really good try but kept missing, he was rewarded for effort! **Ben** had his very own waiter, his pancakes served on his table, not a crumb left! They all enjoyed homemade pasties and cream teas on St. Piran's Day and we're planning a tasty Irish stew for St. Patrick's Day.

The beaches are almost always empty and on a crisp, sunny winter's day there's no more fun for dogs than exploring the sea shore.

But through the good times, we couldn't escape the sadness. We've lost **Victoria** (7) little grey squirrel, **Timothea** (60), spur-thighed tortoise, **Fudge** (14) our handsome ginger and white



Kai



Lullabelle

boy, **Lottie** (17) prettiest cream cat and our gorgeous **Tuxedo** (16) black and white boy. We've also lost **Patrick** (18), Shih Tzu, **Lizzie** (15), Miniature Poodle, **Mitzi** (12), Patterdale Terrier, **Pip** (13), American Cocker, **Jonas** (15), miniature Smooth Dachs, and **Diesel** (16), Jack Russell. Such unbelievable sadness, our memories so many, so sweet.

And then along came **Baby**. Baby was quite timid at first – she and her mum were the only two left of her original herd, and since her mum died five years ago, she'd been on her own – then her owner died, the farm was being sold and she needed a home. We built her a magnificent field shelter which she makes full use of and she's really settling in to the good life and enjoying all the attention and the other residents – all the geese, and ducks and chickens are worth watching, Peppa Pig can be good company, and she likes nothing better than a scratch at the top



of her tail whereupon she will move her bottom from side to side doing a little jig of joy! She will now take treats from your hand and give you a big, slobbery kiss with her long tongue. Top marks to Eileen for devising the recipe for a cow birthday cake which was made with sugar beet, barley, apples and oats, bound with honey and molasses, encased in carrot sticks and decorated with blueberry and banana treats! Once Baby got over the shock of one of the carrots leaping off the cake trying to eat her she thoroughly enjoyed her cake and ate it all in one sitting!

Lucy (13) has come to join us. She is a very beautiful, sleek black Whippet with an amazing turn of speed. She does incredible zoomies round our maze field and loves to run in and around all the bushes and "islands" keeping everyone on their toes. Lucy speaks to you very loudly when it's almost time for breakfast, or lunch, or dinner



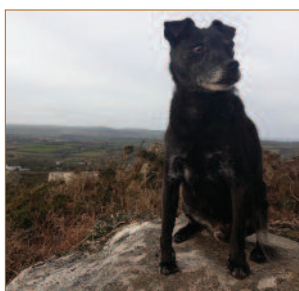
and if she were a person she's probably click her fingers and tell us to get on with it because she wants her food NOW! When she's tired, she takes herself off and goes into a really deep sleep. At night she sleeps with Danny but only at night, she won't let him on the sofa with her during the day and barks at him until he gets off and goes onto another sofa, then she'll steal his! Lucy likes her toys and balls inside not outside! She greets everyone with a very waggy tail, she's very friendly and affectionate and loves to play with every dog she sees. She has the most lovely aristocratic face and a wonderful flowing movement – an absolute joy.



Suzie is a gorgeous black Toy Poodle age 13. She is very lively and really doesn't look or act her age! Suzie bounds about everywhere with a really bouncy jump. When Suzie gets excited she will, yell loudly with glee, leap and spin and her head almost overtakes her tail! She is a real favourite with the boys, especially Kai who will follow her around but she is absolutely not interested and will trot past him as if he hasn't even made an advance.

Suzie loves the freedom of going out in the garden and will happily play and run around for ages but as soon as she feels a spit of rain she heads for the door and the comfort of her sofa and a nice fire. Cuddling up with a favourite person on the sofa is another of Suzie's pleasures in life and she will snooze happily, as long as you don't move and disturb her, if you do, prepare to be reprimanded. She loves to sit with her head hanging over the seat of the sofa, in a deep sleep but will leap off sharply when she sees everyone else getting ready to go for a walk or get their lunch. She never misses a trick.

Suzie loves her warm chicken breast but is very fussy with treats and really likes the cheesy nibbles that her mum told us about. Her mum sadly broke her hip and leg from which she hasn't recovered.



At bed time Suzie does a little dance to let you know she wants to be lifted onto the bed. Once there she sprawls out across the middle of the bed leaving very little room for anyone else, even though she is so small and cute!

We're looking forward to more warmth in the sun, much longer days, walks on the hill so **Murphy** can once again sit on top of the world, king of all he surveys! Doggie icecreams on the beach, picnics in the shade of the trees,

ambles along the river bank, paddles in the pool.

The tortoises have woken up, the squirrels are playing, the wild birds are singing their little hearts out and the geese say “hurrah” to all that!



Poetry Corner

Our first lovely poem was written by **Beryl Shepard Leece**:

Heartsease

Sometimes I wish I could forget
And take the pain away.
A pain that lives deep in my heart,
The tears I shed each day.

I see once more the empty place
Where you would curl and rest.
And feel your comfort and your love
Your gentle warm caress.

My friend – companion on life's way
To trust implicitly
To know you were always there for me
In life's adversity.

To find again the happiness
We shared down on this earth.
You understood in your own way
You never knew your worth.

And yet I know we'll meet again
In that dear blessed place.
The place where you'll be waiting
And I'll look on your dear face.

For as the days wind into years
And the memories come and go.
There's only one with a love like mine
Knows how I miss you so.

And this in memory of **Jinntee** comes from **Karina & Trever Griffiths**:

Thank You My Lovely Girl

God looked around his garden
And found a quiet place
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb
So he closed your weary eyes
And whispered, "Peace be thine".

It broke my heart to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of me went with you
The day God called you home.



And Finally...

Let us spare a thought for those in Ukraine, trying to flee the devastation being reigned upon them, their beloved pets held close in their arms. And the pets left behind in terror we can't even imagine, their owners distraught. How blessed we are to know with certainty that those we hold so dear are, and always will be, safe.

As we hope for a warm and happy summer let us also hope for peace abroad and send our collective love and prayers.

God Bless Everyone

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive

