
NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

In June we celebrated with joy and not a little awe, the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. Last night, our flags were lowered to half mast. With the deepest sorrow, we heard of the death of our Queen. Our Queen whose love for her animals was legendary, but it was her Corgis who made the Royal Residences home. Who else but a Corgi called Queenie could front this newsletter in tribute. Loved and cherished by me and a direct descendant of Cinnamon, I hope her smile will help you smile too.





Catalogue

Lots of goodies to help with your Christmas shopping! The cheese biscuits with the chutney top of my list, with the Innocent Hound treats – all our dogs loved them! And for something really different the garlic dish gift set looks good.

Christmas Card

Another fabulous one from **Linda Rush**. The baby, **Oakley**, belongs to **Lily** who helps look after our residents at Poldarves Farm, she often brings him to see everybody that she misses so much whilst on maternity leave – the dogs in particular are fascinated by the baby and he them – an obvious scenario for a Christmas Card! Here are the stars:



Baby (14)



Oakley Jack Martin Moon
(6 weeks)



Ginger (3)



Lucy (14)



Heidi (14)



Pepe (13)



Pumba (8)



Sandy (15)



Archie (12)



Timmy (17)



Tess (15)



Jake (14)



Kai (16)



Andy (14)



Tufty (4)



Zac (12)



Blue (12)



Gemma (14)



Tilly (20)



Once again we have been busier than ever and someone else who has been busy is **Graeme Hall** who many will instantly recognize. He who can seemingly encourage any dog “behaving very badly” to mend their ways in seconds, has become an Ambassador for Cinnamon Trust and promoted our work and our ever present need for volunteers at each event on his incredibly demanding round Britain tour. He is currently filming his next series, that done, he will be writing a piece for our next newsletter so we can really look forward to that!



CT 100 Club

Winners who have each received £30 are: Apr: **Leslie Fisher** (Suffolk), May: **Joan Boldero** (Norfolk), Jun: **Anne Kairle** (Somerset), Jul: **Lorna Edwards** (Nottinghamshire), Aug: **Valerie Bailey** (East Sussex) and Sept: **Jean Pollard** (Devon). Forms for the new start are enclosed. If you pay by standing order, and wish to continue, just send the form back marked “standing order” and we will send you a new lucky number!



Fundraising Events

Mary Smith, Muschi and **Barbara** (Kent) raised an incredible £854.40 with their eBay sales, plant and veg stall plus a collection of a friend’s 5p pieces! **Caroline Hendra** and **Pauline Grimes** (Lancashire) raised £165 with stalls at the Carla Lane Fun Dog Show and West Lancashire Dog Fest. **Myra Cox** (Somerset) raised £312 with her flower demonstrations and sales, bingo and sales of cakes and jam. **Maggie Forbes-Buckingham** (Dorset) raised a brilliant £425 on her stall. **Peter Draper**, The Worshipful Master for the year at the **Prince of Wales Lodge 1705** (Hampshire), and his wife **Bernadine** chose us to receive a collection held at their Christmas lunch – a fantastic £621. **Florence Croucher** (Somerset) raised £280 with her garden gate stall selling home-made preserves, hand-knitted goods and bric-a-brac, and her famous ‘Ladies that Lunch’ raffle! **Sandra Pridgen’s** (Lincolnshire) annual Christmas cake bake has been a great success again, she raised £115. **Christ Church Warminster** (Wiltshire) chose us to receive an amazing £2,000 from their annual Tithe. **Paul Rayner** and the team at **Canley Cemetery and Crematorium** (West Midlands) raised a stonking £15,000 by taking part in the national metals recycling scheme. **Geraldine Daniels** and the

team at **Lymm Vets** (Cheshire) raised £113 with their raffle. **Debbie Kendall's** (Buckinghamshire) super Enlightened Hound Christmas cards proved to be a huge success again, raising £348. **Mickey Downing** (Cornwall) raised £50 with her display of Christmas lights. **Sarah Terry** (Somerset) raised £104 on her stall. **Liz Veasey** (Nottinghamshire) raised £110 with her lovely Christmas wreaths and workshops. **Tina Matthews** and the team at **Carnon Downs Garden Centre** raised a terrific £540.75 for us with their craft stalls and 'Storytime with Santa' – lovely idea! **Rosaline Newman** (Wiltshire) raised £50 with the sale of dolls clothes. **Robert Metcalf** and the team at **Test Valley Crematorium** (West Midlands) took part in a metals recycling scheme and raised a fantastic £5,000. **Jeremy Campbell** and the team at **The London Cat Clinic** have been amazing again, raising £488.90 with their efforts. **Fiona Swailes** (Cheshire) raised £10 with sales on her local Facebook selling group. **Liselle Fae-Jackson** (Lincolnshire) and the members of **Association of Animal Artists** raised a superb £1,000 for us with their postcard auction. **Sara Morton** (Somerset) and her team at **All4Paws** (Somerset) raised £500 with their ever-popular tombola. **Tonja Fritz-Johnson** (Oxfordshire) raised £400 with wonderful photography at Wallingford 1155 Bonfire and Fireworks. **Ruan Minor Village Hall** (Cornwall) raised £250 with their Christmas Market and January quiz. **Joanne Stenton** (Yorkshire) works at Sainsburys who have a charity fund pot for employees who do volunteering – they pay £5 per hour and Joanne claimed the maximum £200 for us, really well done! **Explore by Paws** (Warwickshire) raised £132.25 on their winter adventures. **Pam Freeland** (Wiltshire) raised £20 with a table-top sale. **Mandy Gardner** (Worcester) raised £343 with a very tasty charity coffee morning, aided by star of the show, **Ben the Spaniel!** **Roz Walters'** (Dorset) gourmet dog biscuits (Dorset) raised a delicious £152.55. **Pam Freeland** (Wiltshire) raised £20 with a table top sale. **Maggie Evans** (Bristol) raised £253 with her fun dog-day stalls. **Sophie-Anna Druce** and **John Fox** (Somerset) raised a green fingered £250 selling plants from their stall. **Nanpean Primary School** (Cornwall)



Mickey Downing's Christmas lights



Maggie Evans



Nanpean Primary School



Billy-Jean Horne at Tesco Stores

had a brilliant time dressing up as wild animals and raised £109.45. **Shearbridge Vets** (West Yorkshire) raised a jolly £216.10 wearing Christmas jumpers last year! **Billie-Jean Horne** (Lancashire) raised an amazing £500 with a wonderful bookstall at Tesco Extra in Burnley, one of their customers nominated us for supporting her through Covid which is really lovely. **Pamela Allinson** (Northumberland) nominated us to benefit from the Global Days of Service Programme, run by **Northumberland Powergrid**, raising a fantastic £1,000 with her volunteer hours! **Yvonne Murrell** (Essex) raised £170 from sales of her wonderful 'Welsh Terriers & Friends' Calendar. **Maggie Martin** (Sussex) has been amazing again, raising an exuberant £1,299 with

Easter Fair sales and a Jubilee Celebrations Fair! In lieu of sending Christmas Cards, **The Learning Centre** (Romford) raised £170. Parishioners of **The Parish**



Lorraine Hawkins at the Easter Fair

Church of St George the Martyr (Hampshire) raised £50 with their Wednesday Coffee Mornings. **Lorraine Hawkins** (London) raised £182 at the Enfield Easter Fair, it was a lovely day, sunshine, lots of stalls but only one tombola, Lorraine's, which the children loved – inflatable beach balls, games, paper plane bits, pens, pencils and napkins that looked like £50 notes! **Jean Dearmer** (Hampshire) raised £209 for us with sales of various items. **Victoria Smith-Gillard** raised £30 from her Pet Therapy sessions. **Alison**

Johnson (Lancashire) dressed as Scooby Doo and her friend **Anne**, a Bathing Belle, walked 9 miles along Blackpool sea front with her two dogs, **Skye** and **Ebony**, bless her, is 15 so she went in a push chair – they raised a brilliant £650.



Alison Johnson and Anne with Skye and Ebony

Bonnie Prewett (Moray) raised £47.74 with her garden car boot sale. Super-fit **Karen Piggott** (Hampshire) ran two half marathons in two weeks, and raised £70 – wow! **Louise Matlock** (London)



raised £380 with her ever popular Christmas Crackers. **Elena**

Newman (West Sussex) raised a delicious £50 with "Cake & Coffee in the Garden!" The residents and pets of **Hanover Court**

(Cambridge) raised £52

with their fantastic Jubilee Raffle and 'Knitted Queen' auction! In memory of **Jo-Jo Rocklin**, a number of events organised by **St Rumons' Social Club** (Redruth) raised a phenomenal amount, of which we were chosen to receive an amazing £4,000. **Sue Pipe** (Hampshire) raised £25 selling her lovely handmade cards. **Sue Hill** (Kent) raised £35 with a yard sale. **Hazel Hickman** and the **Pawfit Physiotherapy Team**, raised £383.95 at their open day event. **Pam Rumfitt** (Bedfordshire) raised £145.88 with her stall at the wonderful Potten End Dog Show. **Alistair Hellier** (London) had an incredible weekend of fundraising and we received £2,066.72. **Rachel Burt** (Northamptonshire) raised a tasty £116 with sales of her delicious homemade dog biscuits. **ICR Vets** (Midlothian) raised £135.10 for us at the local town gala. **St Ervan Village** (Cornwall) baked up a feast and raised £205 with their coffee morning. **Cheryl Wilde** (Berkshire) raised £200 for us with a stall at the Maidenhead Duck Derby! Help was at hand in the form of **Chris, Pauline, Lynn, Gill, Janet** and **Roger! Valerie-Jean Ehret** raised £426 with a super special tea party. **Janet Morgan** (Worcestershire) raised £140 with her plant sales. **Trowbridge & District Dog Training Club** (Wiltshire) now sadly closed, chose us to receive some of their remaining funds and sent us £1,400.

Manston K9 Dogs (Kent) raised a fantastic £685 at their Christmas, Valentine's, and Easter Dog Shows – treats all round I hope! **Elvenhome Dog Training Club** (West Sussex) raised £75 with their Christmas raffle. **Littlehampton Dog Training Club** (West Sussex) sent us £200. **CHeWs Dog Training Club** (London) raised a stunning £3,435 during their 2021 events. **BoWoW Dog Training Club** (Cornwall) sent a wonderful £429.50. **Exeter & County Canine Society**

(Devon) raised £56 with The Cinnamon Trust Stakes class. **Minky's Pups** (Norfolk) raised £314 donating part of the cost of their training sessions, and additional donations from their facebook page. **Dunstable and District Canine Society** (Middlesex) raised £350. **Alpha Dog Training Club** (London) raised an amazing £1000. **Horsham & District Canine Society** (West Sussex) have sadly had to close. They chose to send us some of the funds left in their account and kindly sent us £320. **The Whippet Club Racing Association** (Berkshire) raised £44 with a competition organised in memory of their Committee Member, **Ian German**. **Avon Working Dog Training** donated £250. **Elm Park Dog Training**



Hanover Court's Jubilee raffle



Pam Rumfitt at the Potten End Dog Show

Club (Essex) really cleaned up with their sales of poo bags, and raised £70! **Luke Burthor** and **The Dog House** (Cornwall) raised £360 with their fun dog show.



Volunteer Views

Our first view comes from **Santa Drozdova** in Lincolnshire.

"I had been wanting to volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust for some time and after making a few changes in my life I was finally able to apply for it.



My first case is a little boy called George. His owner Robert is unable to give him long walks due to ill health so I'm very pleased The Cinnamon Trust is able to step in and help Robert who is an absolutely delightful gentleman who loves his boy dearly and is ever so grateful for the help we can offer.

George is a happy lad who is a keen walker and walks for miles and is still raring to go. George gets on with most dogs but can be anxious of

larger dogs. I make sure he is reassured if he seems nervous and he happily passes them with a few reassuring words.

George is a big fan of tennis balls, or anything that resembles the shape of a ball! Some days we will have a ball during our walks, and some days we will leave it behind. If I took the ball every time we would never get anywhere but I realise how important it is for him to have a fun walk as well as an exercise walk. He's a funny lad really! There was one day where he was absolutely obsessed to get to a certain spot in the woods. We approached it cautiously, just in case, and eventually I saw what he so desperately wanted... a mucky and moss-covered half of a tennis ball, left behind by another dog. Yuk!!

It's heart-warming to see how close George and Robert are and be a part of them staying together. George is a good boy and spends his nights snuggled up to Robert in bed and comforts him during long days at home.

Thank you, Cinnamon Trust, for giving George an opportunity to stretch his little legs and Robert to have his best friend by his side."

And from Essex **Sarah Cox** writes:

"I knew of The Cinnamon Trust because of the help they gave my Nan for a number of years with her dog, Jess, before she passed away in 2015 and Jess went to live with my cousin.

When I found myself working from home a lot more it got me thinking that maybe now I finally had a chance to 'pay back'. I registered as a volunteer, the sign up process was really easy, and the office were really helpful during it. Then in October I got a call to ask if I could walk Jack. Jack is a 5-year-old Westie x Bichon Frise, whose lovely owners, Jean and Len, are no longer able to walk him.

Along with my 8-year-old daughter, Millie, we walk Jack once a week, or more where we can in school holidays. Jack is such a sweet, placid dog, who is always excited to get going when we pick him up. He's so good with Millie, they have become firm friends and he gets lots of cuddles from her. He's great with other dogs and never any bother. We're really lucky where we live to have woodlands, fields and a river all within a short drive, so we try to vary where we take him each week. We sometimes take him to watch my 10-year-old son, Alex, play football and he loves the attention from the other children and parents!



It's so nice to have a reason to go out each week, and lovely to know we're helping Jean and Len and returning the favour that The Cinnamon Trust did for my Nan and Jess. Millie loves Jack and really looks forward to taking him out for a walk, it's lovely to see her growing in confidence with him each week. Over the weeks and months we've got to know Jean and Len, and look forward to my catch up with them. It really is a win/win situation for all and I'm so glad we signed up."



Lara Goodwin writes from Dorset.

"My name is Lara and I live in Weymouth in Dorset and work for the NHS. Many years ago a nurse told me about The Cinnamon Trust as she knew a patient that had used the charity. She was telling me about it because we are both dog lovers and she knew I would like to hear about it. After our discussion, I knew that I wanted to be involved at



some point in the future when I could spare the time. A few years ago, my beloved border collie passed away. I could not really get another dog myself as I work full time and live alone but wanted to help and spend time with animals in some way. For a while I helped out at a rescue centre, but it was a bit too far from where I live, I then remembered The Cinnamon Trust so looked at the website and got in touch. It didn't take long to be put in touch with some lovely dogs and owners.

I currently walk Rosa, a 5-year-old Staffie. She is the boss of one of the loveliest ladies I have ever met called Jan. Unfortunately, Jan's husband died the year before. Her husband was the one that would mainly walk and train their dogs and with Rosa being a young strong Staffie, she was a bit much for Jan to walk.

When I first started walking Rosa, she wouldn't want to leave the house. She was the same with the other walkers. I think it was a mixture of not understanding why her dad was no longer there and not wanting to trust all these strange new people taking her away from her mum. At first, I used to coax her with treats, I then used to pick her up and carry her just to get her past the house then she would walk and seem happy enough. Rosa has come to trust me, so I no longer have to coax her, in fact, I can't even chat to Jan for too long before our walk because she is pulling me away to get going. I try to mix the walks up, which is not difficult to do where I live. Rosa doesn't like loud noises and tries to chase motorbikes so I get to the country or coastal paths as soon as I can. She lives just one road away from where the coastal paths start, so it is great, although rather muddy in the winter.

I had never had any experiences with Staffies so I never realised just how sweet, loving and sensitive they are. Rosa loves all humans and is perfectly well behaved with both adults and children. I have been stopped a few times by strangers asking to stroke her and Rosa laps the attention up. Unfortunately Rosa can be temperamental with other dogs so I am cautious when walking past other dogs and keep Rosa on a lead, however, living in Weymouth, and knowing all the different places to walk, there are places that can be open and secluded, so with Jan's permission, there is always a chance to let her off the lead, she never leaves my side and always glances back to see if I am there. If I see a dog nearby I put the lead back on. Rosa loves rolling around in fox poo over Curtis fields (don't tell Jan), she knows she is not allowed to do it, so if you ever hear the name 'ROSA' being yelled in Weymouth, you know why! We have great walks along the coast and usually walk for at least an hour. The thing that always makes me laugh, and I don't know if this is a Staffie thing, but she constantly snorts, especially when she is walking fast or is sniffing the ground a lot – it's just so cute. I absolutely love Rosa; I get my dog fix and it makes me pleased to know that she is getting exercise and able to continue to live with Jan.

I like to think that Jan has become a friend as well. We have lots of chats on her doorstep and she is such a kind lady with a lovely family. I hope that I am helping

them both in some way. Jan has lost her partner in life and is retired so I am sure it is nice to have those moments of the day to speak to me and the other walkers.

I have gained a lot from volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust – I enjoy seeing and speaking with new people, it keeps me active and I get to walk dogs and cuddle them while I can't have my own."



Kim Brophy (Kent) says:

"I have always loved all animals but especially dogs and until I married always had a dog growing up at home. Marriage and a busy work life (including the dreaded London commute) meant a dog could not be part of our life as it would have been unfair on them.

I first heard of The Cinnamon Trust over 20 years ago when I worked as a Volunteer Co-ordinator at my local hospice, supporting the different types of volunteers for the hospice building but also volunteers who helped with home visits for patients and their carers. Reporting back, the volunteers would often mention that the patients were worried about their pets; this is when I heard about The Cinnamon Trust.

The Trust stepped in to help on many occasions and helped patients keep their beloved four-legged friends alongside them as much as possible. I still remember thinking what an amazing charity as well as learning that volunteers, in many different roles, were also amazing for their goodwill and time they gave to support a cause important to them.

Fast forward to 2021 and after working for 42 years, personal circumstances meant I could reduce working hours and have some free time to support family and friends. For me, it was 'semi-retirement' and I read lots of information about 'having a purpose' and a routine in your life.

Whilst I absolutely knew I did not want huge diary commitments and that mad, busy time at this stage of my life, I also knew I wanted to volunteer in some way and a match with my love of dogs, walking and meeting people, The Cinnamon Trust volunteering seemed perfect.

On Facebook, a little Jack Russell called Lily popped up needing some walks in my next village and I immediately applied. The application, communication and processing were thorough and speedy, and I was immensely proud



when my volunteer pack and Cinnamon Trust ID badge arrived. I met Lily for a brief introductory walk, and we now have a weekly walk for an hour or so around the beautiful Kent village where she lives. She is an absolute delight and Pauline, her owner, says she knows when I am due to arrive each week and I get the most enthusiastic greeting. We are getting to know the other dog walkers and their humans in the village, and I always mention The Cinnamon Trust to help spread the word.

Lily loves her walks, often leading me down a footpath I did not know even existed. She stops at certain gates and houses where she knows other doggie friends live and is so friendly with all the other animals; dogs, horses, sheep and even Freda the piggy we meet regularly! I get a good dose of fresh air and exercise and get to chat to other lovely villagers. Her owner has many health challenges but often tells me how much she appreciates me being able to walk Lily. I know if I could not walk my own dogs, I would want someone who cares about them the same way as me.

With a short drive, it is just a couple of hours per week, but a couple of hours when I can escape the usual routine and really switch off from day-to-day life. After many years of working a busy, diary committed role I am always pleased to put in 'Lily@Benenden' in as my regular diary commitment each week.

Thank you, CT, for giving me the opportunity to volunteer."



In Devon **Karen Brooking** enjoys Chilli time.....

"I have been walking Chilli for four years now. I was recently retired and had plenty of things to fill my day. I wasn't looking to walk a dog, but I was introduced to Chilli



by another Cinnamon Trust Volunteer who walked Chilli regularly and was looking to step back. As soon as I met Chilli I knew I was destined to become a volunteer and signed up to register. I started walking Chilli twice a week. Over the years walking Chilli has become part of our daily routine. He has been introduced to my family and friends and we have got to know him well. Getting out every day with Chilli was a huge bonus during lockdown.

He is a little dog with a huge character. He is not aggressive but he does love to tell off a big dog or a puppy by barking in his face, so I am always aware of who is around us.

He is a terrible ball thief and anybody's ball is better than his own. He is very stubborn and once he has a ball he won't let go. This has got us into some embarrassing situations over the years. No amount of telling off or bribery works. He won't give up the ball until he is ready! Chilli adores the beach and loves to swim. He chases around on the sand and when it's time to go he will run back into the water to avoid having his lead back on!

Chilli had a solitary life before The Cinnamon Trust became involved. He is much more sociable now. It was a long time before he started to show any signs of affection. He has benefited as much from our relationship as we have.

His favourite day would be an early pick up and to meet up with my friends and their dogs followed by a long walk and visit to a beach cafe. He loves being part of a pack.

Chilli is getting older now and is not as spritely as he was. He has arthritis in his back legs but still enjoys a good walk. I can't imagine my life without some Chilli time!"



Katrina Hockley in Berkshire says:

"I started volunteering just before Christmas 2021 and after a couple of weeks, a dog came up that was close to where I lived. I arranged to meet the owner and said dog and was blown away! Not only have I met a lovely older dog called Bella, I have met a lovely older lady who is very interesting and great fun to talk to from the moment I met them I knew that we would get along like a house on fire.

Being an older dog Bella likes to have a longer walk with lots of stops for sniffs and exploring, she is not bothered by other dogs, she just wants to sniff around and see what's what in her neighbourhood. I walk Bella twice a week, and look forward to these walks every time (even in the rain!). Walking her makes me go out and get some fresh air and is a welcome lunchtime break from working from home; she is helping to keep me fitter as much as I am helping her!



I have gained so much in the past year of volunteering; I have met a lovely lady

who I look forward to chatting to and hearing her stories each week and a lovely dog that is as Labrador as a Labrador could be! Helping to walk Bella means that her owner can keep her - she is her only companion and cannot give her the longer walks she needs. With me helping with her exercise, she gets to keep her friend. This is an amazing feeling, and not a totally altruistic one as I get to walk an amazing dog and hear some amazing stories. I highly recommend anyone to give volunteering a go with The Cinnamon Trust; it is so rewarding and such a lovely thing to do for someone, and you will also get so much out of it on a personal level for yourself. It will really make your heart smile.

PS: I turned up on Boxing Day to walk Bella and she had her Christmas Bow on!"



From Cheshire **Kerry Dulac** writes:

"In my previous career in the NHS, occasionally I would meet patients who were not well enough to look after their dogs, and sadly their pets were being euthanised. I would try and contact local veterinary practices and search for help to avoid this from happening, and it was not until recent years I heard about the Cinnamon Trust.

I have always had dogs growing up, but now I have young children of my own, and two very elderly cats. We would love our own dog as I know they were such a big part of my life and I want my children to have this joy in their life too. Unfortunately, our cats would not cope very well with a young dog joining our family, so we're not ready to get our own just yet.

We were also looking for ways to exercise and get outside more as a family, as before children we used to enjoy spending days having long walks, but little legs couldn't keep up! So being able to take someone else's dog for walks, for someone who wasn't able to do this themselves due to having various health conditions was a 'win win' – so, when we heard about The Cinnamon Trust, we all agreed as a family it would be a great idea!



The children signed up as volunteers too and got their own ID badges. Before long we had an email asking to us to do some holiday cover for a local dog which we did and loved, but this was only temporary and then we were asked if we would take Henry for walks. We agreed and arranged to meet him - Henry is a Shih Tzu cross Cavalier - Cava Tzu (I had to Google the breed to know what to expect

- soo cute - we were all very excited!). On our first walk, we just took him to the local park; he was so friendly- he didn't know us, so he was very well behaved and half way through the walk he really settled and decided he liked us and was so happy and playful - he was around 8 years old then. His owner explained that he was good in cars so we agreed to take him a bit further for longer walks and, before long, we were having lovely walks across the local beaches, in the woods and, lots of local parks. Henry's owner Hilary warned us that he likes to roll in smelly things and on one walk through the local cow fields Henry decided to have a good roll in a cow pat!! Oh dear that was a messy dog - I couldn't take him in the car so we had to give him a good wash before we took him home! Bless him, I must say we haven't ventured into that field since!

Quite quickly we have really fallen in love with him - he is so excited when he sees us, and bounces around on his walks with his happy little face being such a good boy and meeting lots of other dogs. We have a great relationship, he seems to have really bonded with me (which I secretly love) and when we stop for a rest he will jump on my knee for lots of cuddles. We go to the outdoor dog friendly cafe after walks on the beach and Wirral Way, and come rain or shine (even if he needs his little coat) it gets us out and he has lots of fun.

We started walking Henry before the COVID lockdown, so when the country shut down, and we were all so restricted, as a key worker volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust we could still walk- this was a life saver! We kept our ID cards with us and continued to take Henry for regular walks. We had some lovely weather too, so we were able to maintain some normality throughout that difficult time.

Obviously, walking Henry, we have found a lovely friendship in his owner Hilary - such a kind and caring lady who always asks about the family and it has been such a pleasure getting to know her. Hilary cares so very deeply about her pets who are such a massive part of her family and bring her such joy and company, so we feel very honored to be able to take her beloved Henry for walks, and so satisfied that he is nice and tired and will have a good snooze when he gets home. Sometimes we send Hilary photos or videos of Henry running on the beach or meeting local horses etc; Hilary loves to see him having fun.

Having young primary school children, working and having other commitments we had to think carefully about becoming volunteers. We had to have a child-friendly dog and I had to make sure we had the time. We walk Henry once weekly now, and on occasion when he has needed extra cover we would do more. At times we have had holidays or sickness, and when we haven't been able to see Hilary and Henry we miss them and look forward to our next visit - they really have become such a big part of our lives, and they're very special to us all. We thank both them and The Cinnamon Trust for giving us this opportunity."

Freda with a little help from **Jackie Boyd** in Merseyside has something to say as well.....



"I'm Freda. I'm a Miniature Schnauzer from Liverpool and I live with my daughter, Luna, and human dad, Frank.

My Dad called The Cinnamon Trust about a year ago and I'm really pleased he did! Soon after, we met our volunteer, Jackie. She talks a bit strange as she has an accent I've not heard before, but we soon got used to what she was saying.

Jackie walks us twice a week and we go on a different walk each time for around an hour. I usually tell her where to go because I'm the boss. Everyone in the area knows who we are, mainly because we're so cute, but also because we're loud. We like to bark at most dogs as our way of saying hello!

I'm so friendly, I like to stop and say hello to everything and everyone. We have a bunch of friends nearby; Daisy the spaniel, Buddy the Chow Chow and Archie the Pug. There's also Jack the Jack Russell who lives on our street. He's not a big fan of ours, but his owner is and always gives us treats! Luna has a special relationship with squirrels and cats. She gets so excited when she sees them and stands up like a meerkat, then starts to squeak to get their attention. Of course, they're nothing but confused so she's yet to properly say hello!

Sometimes, Jackie puts us in the car for a different adventure. We sit in a hammock thing with our own seatbelts. I always have to jump in and out of the car first, because again, I'm the boss. My favourite place she takes us to is the big field. When we get there Jackie takes off our leads and shouts 'go' - then we get to run anywhere we want as we have it all to ourselves - it's great! The only downside is Luna runs faster than me so that's a bit embarrassing but no one is around to see, so that's OK.

While we're out walking, Jackie likes to get our attention by getting us to catch treats. She always prepares us with a "One..Two...Three....'Catch!" I hardly ever miss a treat and I'm so much better at it than Luna.

I know Jackie really enjoys walking us. We're really funny and full of personality. As she has no dogs of her own, she gets to enjoy our company, explore Liverpool and get fresh air at the same time. What's not to love? Anyway, those are the highlights

of our walks with Jackie. We're really grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for sending her to us."



Not to be outdone, **Bruce** aided and abetted by **Helen Venables** in Staffordshire has this to say:

"Let me introduce myself Bruce and my lovely volunteer walker Helen. We first met 1 year ago, when Helen decided she wanted to help the Cinnamon Trust and meet new people and their companion furry friends. She came and met my owner, Ronald last January and we went for a short walk down the street where I live. We got on great, so fast forward one human year and we now go for a couple of walks, regularly each week.



We have a great time when we go out, I always wait for her in the front window, as I can hear her on the phone talking to Ronald to tell us that she is on her way. I let her know that I am ready, by barking through the window when she pulls up in her car. It's always so lovely to see her as I really enjoy our walks and run on the local field. Her favourite game is when she throws a ball and I fetch it back for her. What she doesn't realise is that I've trained her so well, that I get a treat every time she has the ball back off me!

We have lovely conversations together and Helen tells me that she really enjoys taking me out as she knows how important it is for me as a dog, to get some exercise and fresh air. She has helped me loose a bit of my lock down weight, so now I can run a lot faster. She also loves her time out with me and says that it's something she looks forward to and she enjoys all the different weathers, seeing the changes in the seasons, meeting other walkers and getting her daily paws, I mean steps in! She has helped me meet new friends too, I'm now really confident meeting other dogs and I have a special friend called Maisie who I often meet and walk about with. I know she likes me as her tail always wags when I see her and her bum smells lovely every time!

Ronald has told me that he is very grateful to the Cinnamon Trust for introducing us to Helen and my other walkers. He always has a chat with her when she picks me up, which is great for me as I get lots of treats while they are talking! He says that he is able to concentrate on looking after me in our home, as he doesn't have

to worry about taking me out as he isn't so good getting out and about much now.

So thank you Cinnamon Trust for organising Helen to come round, we wouldn't have become such good friends and have such great fun if it wasn't for you."



Christine Yearley writes from Essex:

"When I retired from Sainsbury's in 2019, my future daughter in law suggested I volunteered for The Cinnamon Trust as I enjoy walking their dog.



Christine and Edna with Leo

Once accepted, I looked forward to my first four-legged friend. I received an email to say a lady needed Leo, a Lhasa Apso, walking. I went round to introduce myself to Edna and meet Leo when I realised I knew her from Sainsbury's! She would come through my till and tell me about her little dog. We chatted awhile then I took Leo for a short walk to see how we got on. Arriving back, Edna invited me in for a cup of tea which we had in the garden.

Over a cup of tea, Edna told me she had been knocked over whilst taking Leo for his early morning walk and ended up staying in hospital for a few weeks which left her unable to walk him again, which is particularly sad as she is a very independent 90 year old and known on their walks.

I now walk Leo on Thursday and Friday afternoons. When I pick Leo up, Edna hands me a few treats telling me he will let me know when he wants one. He certainly does that: he stops, looks at me, cocks his head and then barks. He won't budge 'til he gets one then off he trots 'til it's time for another. I'm sure he can count, because when I say "that's it you'll have to wait till we get home" he barks and off we go.

It gives me a great sense of satisfaction knowing I'm doing something simple but worthwhile and Edna is happy that Leo is getting his walk."



Over the Border now to West Lothian from whence **Michael Frazer** writes:

“I'd been a member of The Cinnamon Trust for several years as a donor to support the great work that they do.

We have two dogs of our own. Doris, a 16 year-old Jack Russell, and Sadie, a 9 year-old Yorkie/ Pomeranian cross. I love their company. They follow me everywhere at home, my constant companions, so I can appreciate how important it is for people to be able keep their dog when they are no longer able to walk it themselves.

I'd always intended to get more involved with The Cinnamon Trust after I retired. That opportunity came along last year and coincided with the situation that our two dogs were getting older and weren't able to tackle longer walks with me anymore. The Trust put me in touch with Baxter, a two year old French bulldog, and his owner Sandra, only a ten minute drive from my home.

We all got on well straight away. Sandra is very friendly, and really appreciates that Baxter can get out and about for longer walks than she can manage herself. Baxter is such a lovely, friendly dog, he gets so excited when I arrive and I always get my ear nibbled when I'm putting his lead on. He's incredibly strong, but very well behaved and comes to me as soon as I call him.



I take his favourite tug-of-war toy with me on our walks as he loves to carry it around, even when we are not wrestling with it. He is completely obsessed with it and it makes me smile when I see him proudly holding it up high as we walk.

We've been going out twice a week now for over eight months. It's a perfect arrangement. Baxter and I get to go on long walks as we explore the local area together, and Sandra doesn't have to worry about him getting enough exercise. I highly recommend getting in touch with The Cinnamon Trust if you have some spare time as they can pair you up with a suitable dog that would love to spend it with you.”



And from Cornwall, **Linda Tucker** says:

“My friend Joan who lived in Truro told me years ago about the wonderful work



undertaken by The Cinnamon Trust volunteers. I love dogs and I thought I could become a volunteer when I retired from a career in Nature Conservation. I retired and moved back to Cornwall in 2015 and was accepted as a CT volunteer.

I was introduced to Penny, a pretty, miniature apricot Poodle. Her owner Michael had moved back to Cornwall about the same time as me and was needing extra help with walking Penny.

Penny lives in the country a few miles from me and I can walk with her into hectares of mixed deciduous and conifer woodland. Penny has led me on a walk on her extended lead twice a week for more than six years! I enjoy walking where she wants to go knowing she will lead me back home to Michael. Her favourite walk is along a ride to a lonesome Scots Pine where she gets very excited by the smells of the pine cones beneath the tree.

To quote Michael, Penny is as bright as a button and she soon sniffs out items of interest to her that have appeared since we last walked on the ride or footpath. She has found numerous things including a nearly new rugby shirt from a town in Devon and an expensive gents' watch; I have either returned items to their owners or donated them to charity. I find it interesting she attracts birdlife, especially in the summer when song birds are defending their territory, but I will never forget the morning we were wooed by a tawny owl in a tree deep in the wood. We have seen the rare red deer and commoner roe deer and heard the now rare cuckoo. Penny has found the large leopard slugs and newts in the undergrowth, and noticed the dung beetle struggling to roll a ball of horse dung uphill on the ride!

Penny is friendly and happy on her walks, and often greets fellow dog walkers and their dogs by bouncing on her back legs as if she was performing in a circus. However, she can be overwhelmed by too much attention by large dogs; I believe it's because she smells sweet to them after her regular visits to the groomer. When we return home to Michael I joke with him that I am tired, but Penny is still as lively as when we started out. In fact, unlike me, she hasn't aged at all in the last 6 years!"



Leah Read also writes from Cornwall:

"Linda is quite uneasy on her feet and she is unable to take Diggory for the long walks which any young dog absolutely LOVES! Because Diggory loves his walks

and has plenty of energy, Linda thought it was only right that she contacted The Cinnamon Trust to make arrangements to give Diggory the walks that he adores.

Linda is lovely! We have established a great form of contact and are able to communicate effectively about Diggory's weekly walks. This year we also bought each other Christmas presents which shows the relationships that can be built as a result of volunteering

Diggory is a sweetheart - I absolutely adore him! He is full of character and super cheeky which I love. He always greets me with a waggy tail and a cuddle which definitely makes my day! He is just so sweet and I am really lucky to be able to walk him every week.

If I ever take Diggory in my car (with the owner's permission, of course) to the beach it's like he knows when we are close to his walk - honestly, as soon as he knows we are close he will SCREAM at the top of his lungs because he is super excited. Also, when we go to the beach he has a mad course of zoomies where he runs on his flexi lead as fast as he can around me!

I feel that I have gained so much more confidence in talking to new people and also it gives my day a purpose because I know that Diggory and his owner rely on me to walk him.

I feel that being a Cinnamon Trust volunteer makes such a huge difference to Diggory and Linda. It relieves pressure and guilt from Linda because she knows that Diggory is able to have his walks."



Wendy Turner in Cheshire says:

"I love dogs but can't have one at home so The Cinnamon Trust seemed like the ideal charity for me: I could have contact with a lovely dog, get some much needed exercise and also help an elderly person.

Soon after registering I was asked if I could walk a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in Macclesfield where I live but I had just broken both my wrists so had to say no on that occasion. Thankfully I was approached again and I was asked if I could foster a beautiful cat called Jasmine short term while her Cinnamon foster parents went away on holiday. I agreed to this, but it was only 3 weeks and over far too quickly for me!

After that I received another call asking if I could walk a lovely Cockerpoo named Penny who was then 4 years old. Her owner, Audrey, had problems with her legs



and she couldn't take Penny on the walks she badly needed so she was putting on weight. Penny was a very beautiful girl, very lively, enthusiastic, affectionate and friendly and I loved being out with her. We had lovely walks together, she encouraging me to go places I had never been before, along canals and river banks, woodlands, fields and hills, with the occasional dip in the river in the hot weather. We drove to an interesting place, walked for about an hour, and then home again. Penny was always eager to get back to Audrey, her whimpering getting louder and louder as we got nearer to home.

I walked Penny in rotation with 4 other ladies so Penny got 6 walks each week which was lovely for her plus, of course, peace of mind for Audrey knowing that Penny was getting lovely exercise in the fresh air. As Audrey became more infirm, I began to organise Penny's visits to the Vet and the grooming parlour and had the joy of bringing her home looking beautiful.

When I went to collect Penny from home she heard the car and jumped up at the window to welcome me. She greeted me with ecstatic barking so I had to get her harness and lead on quickly and then leave Audrey in peace. Penny had a great ability to get very muddy. If there was mud anywhere she would find it and go in it. I often had to give her a good wash before I took her home as I didn't think I could give Audrey that job to do. Penny accepted it all with patience but was always delighted to go back home to Audrey.

Penny and I had been walking together for 7 years when Audrey had a severe stroke and collapsed at home hitting her head as she fell. Penny was with her, on her own, until help came. Audrey died in hospital a few days later. Penny has now gone to live with a lady who fosters her on a permanent basis with the support of The Cinnamon Trust which is wonderful.

I have now been offered the chance to walk a very large, heavy, Staffie. I must admit I was a bit hesitant but this dog is a real softie and very friendly with everyone we meet, constantly rolling over on her back for tummy tickles. She is the complete opposite to common perceptions of this breed, but she is very strong, and if she decides she is going to say "hello" to someone when we are out on our walk I have to just go with it. Up to now, no one has shown any apprehension about her coming into close contact with them. She has very bad back legs because of her being a bit overweight, so it's short walks only at the minute but,

hopefully, with a few more regular walks, she will build up her stamina to walk a bit further and will also slim down a bit.

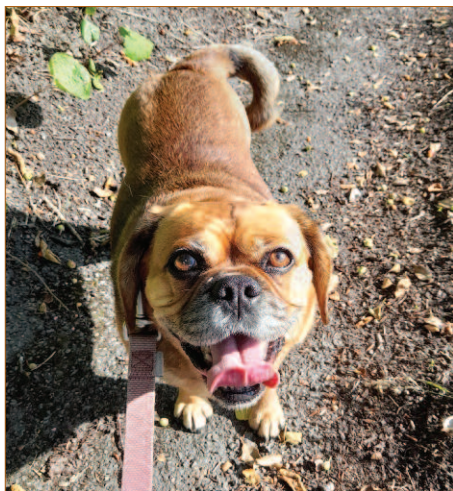
It is a wonderful feeling to contribute to the health and well-being of an elderly person by helping to keep their dog happy and healthy - very worthwhile for all, thank you Cinnamon Trust!"



From Worcestershire, **Dawn Pound** writes:

"I found myself unemployed for the first time in my life at the start of the pandemic. To begin with it was a novelty doing nothing, but when I saw on Facebook a request from The Cinnamon Trust for volunteers to walk dogs, it seemed like the perfect solution to my ever increasing waistline, spare time and would give me back some sense of purpose. After a short while, my services were required, and now I have two lovely new friends in Tilly, a 9-year-old old Pug cross and Janet, her owner.

We had some teething troubles to begin with in that Janet didn't always hear the doorbell, or may have been sleeping when I arrived, and to compound the issue there is no mobile phone signal there. The neighbours must think I am mad shouting so loudly through the letter box, but it works as Tilly hears me and her reaction sometimes alerts Janet to my being there.



This does not necessarily mean that Tilly rushes to get out of her warm bed to come for her walk and she has been known to go back to bed if we humans are gossiping for too long and ignoring her!

I normally walk Tilly three times a week and she leaves me in no doubt of her preferred direction of walk, which is always different, and she is not keen on long wet grass so chooses roads if it's been raining. She is a sociable dog and, if she spots one of her friends in the distance, can go at quite a pace for an elderly dog to catch them up.

Although always polite, she doesn't like puppies at all and turns her back on them. And she is not at all interested in cats. We do also go on my chosen walks but, on one occasion when we had climbed all the way through the woods to the top of

Abberleys steep hillside, Tilly sat down and refused to budge an inch unless it was back downhill towards home!

We are very lucky to have lots of footpaths through arable fields and woodland around her home and she has impatiently waited while I have foraged for blackberries, hazel nuts, mushrooms, chestnuts and, more recently, sloes while out walking! I am also a beekeeper which was handy when Tilly had a cough recently as Janet fed her some of my honey which she said helped alleviate it.

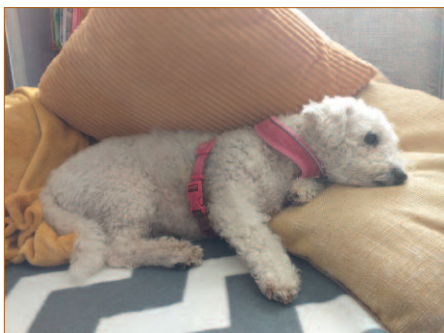
I have recently secured part-time employment, but will continue to walk Tilly as I feel it is very worthwhile to all concerned and we have all become firm friends."



Helen Howard in Lincolnshire has a great sense of humour!



"About 7 years ago, I was directed to Mrs Lovett and her 2 dogs as she was now unable to walk them herself. I arrived at her gate to be greeted by a Bichon/Poodle cross, Poppet and a Shih Tzu, Gremlin. They thought I looked okay, wagged their tails and dashed inside to tell their Mum I had arrived.



Mrs Lovett and I got on straight away and the "girls" or "my nieces" as I call them, happily trotted off to the river bank for our first walk. I had no idea where we were going, but we did make it back!

Every Saturday, Mrs Lovett tells them that I am on my way and Gremlin gets so excited, then I get showered with cuddles on my arrival, not to mention diving into my pockets for treats!

Both girls have been on two memory walks in Clumber Park for the Alzheimer's Society, impromptu trips to the beach and the odd sleepovers at my house when their Mum was suddenly very unwell. They got on really well with my Labrador and four cats, some of which were bigger than them.

On one sleepover, the girls were happily settled on my bed and when my partner

came in the room, they growled at him to say there was no room and he had to sleep elsewhere; oh well!

When Poppet had a bad leg, I took a rucksack and wore it on my front, so she could still go for a walk, but then I carried her when she had had enough; I certainly got some looks! We have so much fun: getting lost, wading through a dyke with a dog tucked under each arm, dog coats for all occasions and too many stories to mention.

Sadly, Poppet's eyesight and hearing have deteriorated, but this doesn't stop her verve for life and to help her we walk the same route. I tell her when there is a pavement to up or down in a loud voice, which works well for her, though I do get a few looks.

Mrs Lovett and I have a deep friendship and I always look forward to going to see her every week and when I have walked the girls, we have coffee and cake and we can be heard laughing and being silly. We also go out socially when possible and it is my absolute pleasure to have met her and the girls through the Trust.

The girls are adorable, affectionate and a delight to walk, so good natured and loved by all that meet them, especially me.

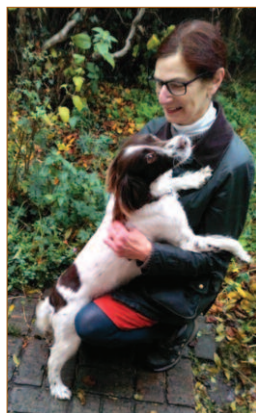
I am so pleased that I took the plunge as a volunteer, it is so rewarding, and I love meeting the owners and their dogs and the relationships that evolve."



From Suffolk **Helen Stanley** says:

"I first met Bridie and her owner Jenny in late July 2021. Bridie lives up to her breed character as she bounces around, springs up on her hind legs to get a better view and motors over the ground at amazing speed. She also has an uncanny knack of emerging from bracken or undergrowth in a deeply muddy state! I usually help with the hosing down at the end of a walk but sometimes a warm shower is the only remedy.

Bridie's tail and rear end wag constantly and she is full of joy which rubs off on everyone she meets. She is responsive and alert off the lead and is therefore a joy to walk with over all sorts of terrain, as well as walking to heel on the lead.



We continue to enjoy walks in woodland near Leiston, emerging on the beach

towards Minsmere for a quick dip in the sea, across the allotments and fields towards Thorpeness. The landscape and skies are always wonderful whatever the weather, so I get as much joy out of the walks as Bridie does!

Jenny has a team of us walking for her, as her health means that she cannot now give Bridie all the walks she loves. Bridie is Jenny's devoted companion with many illustrious Springer predecessors in photos in the house. I am so glad to have met them both and to be able to help out in this way."



And in Kent, **Freddie** has short term stays with **Sara Starkey**:



Freddie (left) and friend

"Over 35 years my husband and I (he died 4 years ago) have taken on 27 dogs - many elderly and abused but Freddie a German Spitz, is my very first foster dog. It is lovely having a dog who has come from a loving home.

At present I have 3 rescue dogs but 2 are elderly and one is a very shy little girl who still finds humans very scary but loves other dogs. So when I was asked by The Cinnamon Trust to foster Freddie all of us agreed it would be a good thing to do. When he arrived he just fitted straight in, as though he had always been here.

They all come to work with me on the two days I volunteer and Freddie is cuddled a great deal there by everyone as he is so relaxed and loves people. Freddie has joined the group very happily and has taken to our routines. He trots off very happily with the others after they have had their supper and take themselves off to bed.

Thank you for all you do, Cinnamon Trust. It has restored my faith that there are many dogs who are loved and adored. And with a little help can be together with their owners again."



Paul Sanderson lives in London and he writes:

"I called The Cinnamon Trust to help with my dogs, Bella and Bonnie, as I have spinal stenosis which leads me to have difficulty walking. I was prompted to get in touch by my consultant as I had refused to call an ambulance, and wouldn't go into hospital, because I had no-one to care for the dogs. I was told that The Trust would help me with my dogs and you have..."

It wasn't long before I had four dog walkers! I have had both dogs since puppies but not been able to dog walk myself for approximately two years. I was told how fostering works and about the 24 hour emergency service which seemed too good to be true if I am honest. Then one Friday evening I had to call an ambulance. I asked my friend to contact you and I was reassured that someone would collect the girls and take them in. It was time to trust someone with the care of my girls so I went off to hospital.

My friend let me know the girls had been collected and were going to a lady called Resli in South London he was told she was a seasoned fosterer and was looking forward to having the girls. I was relieved but still worried. A few hours after that I got my first photo of the girls with Resli. I don't mind admitting I cried. It was mixed emotions as I was happy to see them, and I could tell they were happy, but I missed them so much. I called The Cinnamon Trust to thank them for finding Resli and told them that I was planning on getting better, and getting home, as soon as possible.

Resli stays in touch and I cannot tell you what a difference this has made to my recovery. She writes so well and is so funny. I can't wait to thank her in person and of course to be with Bella and Bonnie again."

.....and volunteer **Resli Costabell** says:

"From the moment Bella and Bonnie arrived, they were such remarkably trusting dogs. Both have a strong sense of being comfortable and safe. I can tell Mr Sanderson treats them very well indeed.

It's touched my heart that Mr Sanderson is relieved the girls are coming to stay with me. I confess I've a tear in my eye. My mother was disabled for the last decades of her life, and needed a lot of help. I couldn't be there all the time. It always touched my heart when Mom would tell me about the nice man who helped her when she fell in the parking lot, or the bank clerk who was worried and came out to check that Mom wasn't having a stroke. I can never repay these strangers who helped a vulnerable older person when she needed it, but I can pass it on. I made it my mission to stay in touch with Paul (we are on first name terms now) and send him regular stories and photos.



At the start of one evenings' walk, we met a group of girls, all between six and ten who were playing with a snail. The girls decided the dogs were far more interesting than a snail, and came over to take a look. Except for Lola, who did a screaming

lap of the grassy area! But after a little interaction with Bella, Lola decided dogs are nice, and not scary and that she wants two of her own! Abigail announced that she wants a Chihuahua, so she can pick it up and carry it. Another of the girls wants a Golden Retriever. Bella and Bonnie were a little restless and eager to walk, as well as slightly overwhelmed by the hyper attentions of five kiddos, so we headed off after just a few minutes.

A long walk later, we were just coming home, when I spied the girls again so we went over to say hello. Cue a giggle of girls running to meet us and stroke the dogs. This time, Lola wasn't scared, and immediately began talking to Bella and touching Bella's ears.

One of their mothers had come out, so we made our way over (I figured she'd want to know who the adult talking with her children was.) I let Lola hold Bella's lead for the journey to the mum (Lola had the handle. But I had a tight grip farther down the lead.) That's where, with the mum's and the girls' permission, I took a photo and the video for Paul.

It turns out the mother used to work with terminally ill people, so I told her about the Cinnamon Trust helping those folks, elderly people, and disabled people, and asked her to please spread the word.

I do hope the photo and video warm Mr Sanderson's heart! His dogs are getting lots of attention and interesting new experiences. Bella helped a little girl to no longer fear dogs. The dogs brought excitement and delight to children.

What a joy for nine of us (girls, dogs, mum and me). I hope the photos and video makes Paul number one on the joy list."



Michelle Seaman in Norfolk is making sure **Oscar** has a wonderful holiday:

"I started volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust in June 2021 and I met Oscar and his owner John in early September 2021.

Oscar is a 10-year-old ex-racing Greyhound that John rescued 5 years ago. He is a gentle giant and true gentleman. Due to John's limited mobility, myself and 4 other local volunteers walked Oscar most days each week, until John was taken to hospital. I was called by The Trust who advised me that John had been rushed in and to ask if there was any chance I could care for Oscar until John returned home. I jumped at the chance!

Oscar came to my small farm in North Norfolk. He soon adapted to farm life and

has thrived. He loves to help me with the morning animal cleaning and feeding and has made friends with my two horses, my two kune- kune pigs and my cat. Millicent (my cat) and Silver (my grey horse) are his best friends. I am sure he thinks Silver is just a very large Greyhound!

He also loves a ride in the car, running off lead in my secure horse paddocks and simply snoozing on his beds. He is getting very fit as he is much more active and getting very educated in all aspects of horse management from watching the farrier to the horses having their physio.

Due to hospital restrictions, I have not been able to visit John with Oscar, but have written to keep in touch with cards and photos plus we do have chats on the phone when John is able.

We are just waiting now to see when John can leave hospital so Oscar can be reunited with him, I am sure he must be missing him very much. In the meantime Oscar is happy and healthy living his 'farm dog' life.

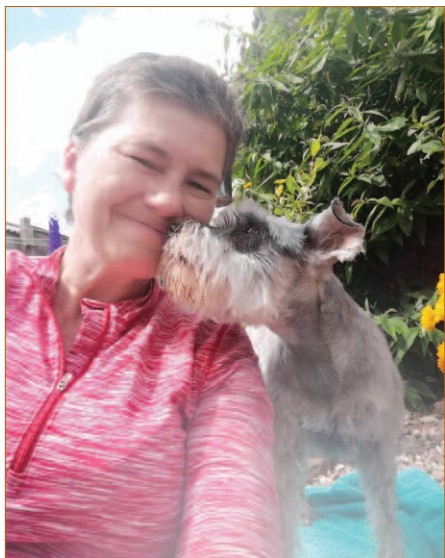
Volunteering for The Cinnamon Trust has been very rewarding and enjoyable for me over the last few months and I would recommend it if you have some spare time to make a positive difference to pets and their owners whilst introducing some great purpose into your own life."



Joanne Turner sends this from Leicestershire:

"I decided to volunteer for The Cinnamon Trust because I had lost my own dog. I missed having a companion but I didn't want to commit full time. So, short-term fostering sounded a great option - being able to offer a loving home to somebody's beloved pet, so they were reassured that their pet was safe and happy whilst apart, felt like it could be really rewarding.

Along came Hetty. From the very first moment she was dropped off she has been a gem (and stolen my heart).



We soon got into our little pattern and she has made lots of fur friends at the different parks we visit. She loves to be snuggled up to you on the sofa and quite often I have to turn up the TV because of her snoring.

We have taken pictures for when we visited the respite home so her Daddy could see the adventures we have been on.

It is going to be difficult to say goodbye, but I know her Daddy is missing her and I have some fantastic memories.

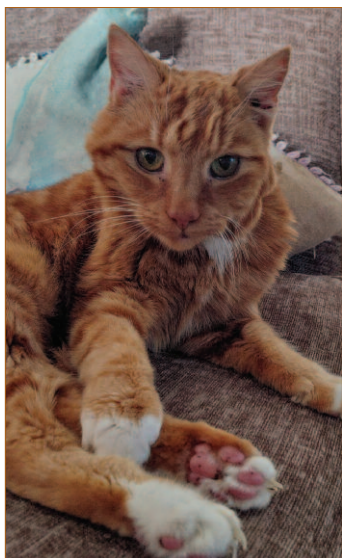
It has been an amazing experience, and I look forward to welcoming another pet that needs love and cuddles."



Don and Linda Hudswell in Dorset are happy!

"What a delight!

We are so honoured and privileged to have been found to be the right match for Ginger and his time with us is proving a delight and so rewarding. Having always adopted cats we had every expectation that it might be a challenging time for



Ginger as his life has been turned upside down - so bewildering for an old chap, (he's 16) and we anticipated he might need his own, quiet space, to get his head around what was going on and gain confidence in his new surroundings and housemates.

But from the first moment he had a thirst for company and cuddles, which are on tap. He adapted and settled in instantly making ours his second home. Whilst his aging bones had become a little stiff during his stay at the cattery, more space to move, lots of play and attention soon had him more nimble and put a renewed spring in his step; his playfulness and inquisitive nature surprisingly kitten-like! His adorable temperament is testament to the lovely relationship he has shared with his mum over

so many years and it will be wonderful for them both to be reunited when she is well enough.

Our home is modest but, after being in a cattery, he now feels that his temporary move is from a budget hotel to a suite at the Ritz with 24-hour room service thanks to the wonderful, caring people at The Cinnamon Trust.

Thank you, Ginger, for such a rewarding experience - you have given us your heart and you have certainly won ours."



Rosalind Froud sends a lovely view from West Sussex:

"My name is Rosalind and I'm a Cinnamon Trust volunteer dog walker.

I was asked to walk two elderly Labradors called Buddy and Holly for a housebound lady called Anne at the weekend as another volunteer called Helen already did days in the week. Their vets suggested more walks for less time as arthritis affects both the Labs, so I met the dogs and started my Saturdays. It wasn't long before I grew very fond of them both (it's hard not too) as such gentle characters who are devoted to each other. I have my own rescue Jack Russell called Tucker and up until recently I cared for my elderly mother at home so, although I'm busy, it was a welcome break to be out and about.



Buddy and Holly with Anna

I took a break from walking due to a foot operation and as temporary cover another volunteer called Jo took over my Saturday walks for a few weeks....well, that was the plan. Meanwhile Anne, Buddy and Holly's owner, became unwell and had a fall so was rushed into hospital. When I got a call from The Trust to let me know about Anne and despite still being a bit wobbly on my feet I offered to foster while Anne recovered. I knew that she hated the thought of kennels and had, in the past, discharged herself in order to be reunited with her two dogs. The Trust agreed this was ok but suggested that we divert Anne's dog walkers Jo and Helen to me so I didn't have to worry and had time to recover. Brilliant idea!

The dogs were so good and settled so easily; as the weeks ticked by and I fell for Buddy and Holly more and more. Tucker took a bit of time to adjust as he himself has had an upsetting past and he was top dog, which Buddy challenges but only with a large woof and Tucker backs down. We've had such fun times already like Buddy literally stealing my steak I'd cooked for a dinner guest off the table while I was distracted- give him an inch!

Anne was moved into respite care and Helen and I, with the care homes' permission, take Buddy and Holly to see Anne once a week where possible. She is so grateful and her eyes light up; it is truly lovely to see how happy she is to see them. I organised a trip for Anne and the dogs with Helen recently to a nearby dog friendly cafe for lunch as it was Anne's birthday. She loved it and happiness shone out of her being with her beloved dogs on her special day.

Such joy comes out of volunteering for The Trust and we can't be more thankful for how supported all of us have been every step of the way for the dogs and Anne too."



Now lets catch up with a few of our 1,073 pets in lifelong foster homes.....

First **Ben** in West Glamorgan with **Alison Jones** who says:



"When I became a volunteer walker for The Cinnamon Trust I was excited to meet Ben, a 9 year Border Collie in September 2017. It's fair to say it was definitely a case of mutual love at first sight.

After walking him a few times, for his lovely owner Sue, a gentle grooming became a post-walk ritual for Ben. I remember thinking I could drown in his soulful brown eyes and Sue and I would chuckle that all the local girl dogs would be saying he was a real looker.

Sadly, two years later, Sue's health deteriorated and Ben came to my home whilst she was in hospital. Although it was the first time my husband and extended family had met Ben, he was an instant hit, charming them by placing his paw or head lovingly on any knee that presented itself. Sue's health meant that she had to go into a nursing home, there was no way that we could bear to part with Ben. Since then, he's made himself very much at home.

Now, at almost 14 years old, Ben still enjoys his daily walks, sniffing everything in sight. He no longer gallops after his ball or stick, but lollops over shorter distances with the best of them! He always gives 'Mammy' Sue a big kiss when we visit her at the care home, where he loves to wander the corridors knowing that residents and staff are always ready to give him a fuss. He also, on occasions, spends a day with the other Cinnamon Trust walker assigned to him when living with Sue.

Ben has just had his first Librela injection to help with his arthritis, and the resulting bursts of pain free energy are amazing to see. He leaps around to chase and catch toys and seems to forget he's an old boy and not still a puppy.

Ben is both a blessing and delight. Thank you Cinnamon Trust for enabling Ben, and dogs like him, to continue enjoying life despite changing circumstances."



Diane Swan in Essex is having fun with Yorkie, **Ben**, quite a family (Cinnamon Trust Family!) affair this:

"I first became a foster Mum for The Cinnamon Trust in September 2018 after my Cavalier King Charles, Henry died. I felt so lost without him to talk to and take for walks. I tried walks on my own or meeting up with my dog walking friends with their dogs, but it was not the same. However, one of my friends mentioned that she was a volunteer dog walker for The Cinnamon Trust and they welcome foster parents for dogs needing new homes and if I am interested contact them. This I did and within a month I had passed the home visit and Arnie – another Cavalier-arrived from Norfolk (I live in Essex).

An added bonus was that one of his walkers, Alan, had taken him in to look after for a couple of weeks between Arnie's owner dying and him coming to me. Alan kindly brought Arnie himself to me to make sure he settled in. Since then both Alan and his wife Lois have become firm friends. Arnie was a sweet little fellow, completely deaf so communication was gentle touches to either wake him or get his attention. Feeding was no problem, as all animal owners will know that their pets have this inbuilt clock which tells them when it is mealtimes so there in the kitchen Arnie would be at meal times! He liked his walks but because of his deafness I could not let him go far away from me as he couldn't hear if I called him. Unfortunately, Arnie died in November 2020 aged about 10 and I was once again lost without dog company. The Cinnamon Trust to the rescue!!

I became the foster Mum to Ben, a Yorkshire Terrier aged 8 whose owner unfortunately had to go into nursing care. Ben came with a health problem, needing an operation on his hip which The Cinnamon Trust soon arranged with our local vet and he made a good recovery. He settled in very quickly and soon made friends with the neighbours. Due to his hip problem, he was only allowed short walks before and a little while after the operation. At about this time I was suffering with a hip problem and it became apparent that I



could not walk Ben myself so, after a talk with Debbie Fisher at The Trust, she arranged for Ben to have his own walkers. Three walkers over five days each week were soon arranged with Denise, Annie and Alison. Ben looks forward to his walks with them waiting at the door for the sound of their cars. When I had my hip operation last November, Denise one of Ben's walkers kindly volunteered, with The Cinnamon Trust's agreement, to temporarily foster him while I was in hospital. He enjoyed himself with a lot of different walks and with Dizzy, Denise's Yorkshire Terrier (also a foster dog from The Cinnamon Trust).

What an amazing charity I am so glad I heard about The Cinnamon Trust and I am so grateful to them for allowing me to foster two lovely companions. Whoever I speak to at the office nothing seems to be a problem for them. So a very big thank you to all the staff from Ben and myself."



This is how **Maurie**, with help from **Jane** and **Martin Floodgate** in Norfolk sees it:

"My name is Maurie and I used to live with my mum, Mitzie and brother, Pepe. Our human mum was not well, we loved her very much and spent a lot of time looking after her. Sleeping as close as we could to her on the bed so she knew we were there. When our human Mum was taken away from us, the lovely Cinnamon Trust found us a foster mum and dad and we moved to Norfolk. It was scary at first, as we had a long drive and our new home was very different, poor Pepe in particular found it very difficult as he is shy. He hid in the airing cupboard for the first few months only coming down at night for his food and to use the litter tray when our new humans had gone to bed. Our Mitzie, my mum, is very clever and she carefully helped Pepe to understand that new mum and dad were very kind and he became more confident and trusting.

It has been a while now and our foster humans are getting more used to us, they know when we are hungry, when we want to be brushed and when we want cuddles. In the beginning they were very keen to join in with any activities. For example, when I went out the first time my foster dad was trying to keep up with me, but he was useless! No good at all at climbing the walls and jumping over the fences, so although I didn't mind him coming with me I couldn't hang around to wait for him, so I left dad behind. I did tell him not to worry I would soon be back for dinner!!

Pepe and I love being outside and have established our territory, in particular with the ducks, we have come to an understanding we leave them alone and they leave us alone! When I arrive back home I meow so the humans know I'm back and that I would like some treats. Pepe has a very long coat and likes to go out in all weathers, so when he comes in he likes to be towelled dry and have a comb, our

foster mum is really good at understanding him when he comes in and she has allocated a special towel just for him. Pepe is a bit embarrassing as he dribbles and pads when he is combed and groomed, but at least he is happy.

Our mum, Mitzie is very independent and is quite strict with Pepe and me, swiping at us if we become annoying. She does look after us though by cleaning us and letting us cuddle up to her. She prefers to stay in the house most of the time (but will pop out in the morning and evenings) and she has great cosy places to snooze, in particular the humans' bed which have some very snuggly blankets on especially for us. I love to snuggle up



to my foster humans at night, spreading out in between them so I have the warmest spot and let the humans snuggle up to me. My foster dad sometimes takes my place on the sofa so when he gets up I will jump in as he leaves it very warm, then I pretend to be asleep and put my paw over my eyes, which always works as he sits in the chair!

It has taken a while to train our foster humans, but they are doing really well; what lucky cats we are that they took all three of us so we preserved our family relationships, especially for poor Pepe. Attached are some photos of us in our new home, I am the handsome black and white one."



Jane Faithful in Somerset is loved by **Jasper**:

"In the autumn of 2020 I was struggling to come to terms with the loss of my beloved Cocker Spaniel, Jack, who I had given a home to 8 years earlier. The bond between us was so strong I was heartbroken and I did not know how to overcome my grief. I have always given a home to needy animals ranging from dogs, cats, budgies, hens and even 10 goldfish left in a garden pond when the owners moved house.



And then I remembered a chance conversation I had had with a lady in my local park some months earlier when she told me about The Cinnamon Trust. I contacted The Trust and asked if I could become a volunteer dog walker/short term foster carer for a dog. I had never done anything like this before.

In March the following year, in the midst of lockdown, 11-year-old Jasper arrived on my doorstep brought to me by one of the Trust's dog walkers. This sturdy West Highland terrier cross very timidly walked into my house and into my life. It was agreed that he would stay with me for just 2 weeks so I told myself not to get attached to him as he would be going home when his owner, Barbara, came out of hospital.

So, on the morning of Good Friday I packed his little bag and the same nice volunteer, who had brought Jasper to me, called to take him home. As I closed the front door I told myself that I would probably not see him again as he lived too far away for me to visit. However, it was not long before The Cinnamon Trust was on the phone again asking if I could take him back as Barbara had been rushed into hospital again. I opened the front door to Jasper who, on this occasion, walked confidently past me and disappeared into the dining room while I chatted to the transport volunteer on the doorstep. Barbara's health on leaving hospital was not good and she could not mobilise. She appealed to The Trust to support the decision for me to continue to look after Jasper as she could no longer provide care. When The Trust approached me about this of course I said "yes".

And from that moment this lovely little chap has brought so much joy into my life. When I look back on 2021, he was the best thing that had happened to me. He does not enjoy much exercise preferring to go out for walks only to find exciting smells so I am often to be found out in the garden in the middle of the night while he leisurely wanders round following a new fox scent. A walk to the park, which would take me about 10 minutes, takes the two of us about an hour. He wanders along from one smell to the next and attracts a lot of attention from other dog walkers because he is such a friendly little dog and very appealing to look at.

He enjoyed rifling through his stocking on Christmas morning and his name was included on many of the cards I received. Friends and neighbours always ask how he is and, if they haven't seen us out and about, knock on the door to check that Jasper is all right. He is a terrific watch dog when the doorbell rings. The person on the doorstep is not to know that this timid little chap is not a Rottweiler by the sound of his bark.

One of his favourite things is for me to groom him. From time to time his skin gets very itchy and, when he sees me approaching him with the tube of cream in my hand, he rolls over onto his side with his legs in the air waiting for me to smooth it on his tummy.

Jasper loves company and is not at all happy when I disappear into the bathroom. He scratches on the door to be let in and now has his own bathmat. However, as soon as he hears the shower, he is out of the bathroom in a flash as he does not like getting wet.

I keep in touch with Barbara, his previous owner, by sending notes on his progress and plenty of photos to reassure her how happy he is. When she handed him over to the Trust I was absolutely delighted to have the chance of becoming his Forever Foster Mum. Whatever I give Jasper in the way of love, a safe, quiet home and nourishing meals, this is given back to me 100 fold. This little dog is now the love of my life and I cannot imagine life without him. At every opportunity I tell others about the wonderful work The Cinnamon Trust does. So many dog walkers have not heard about The Trust and its valuable work so, at every opportunity, I spread the word in my part of Bristol.

No matter how busy the staff are they always find time to discuss any worries or to give advice when it is needed. My heartfelt thanks goes to each one of them."



Harry's Story

"We received a call on The Cinnamon Trust emergency line one Saturday morning in September from Louise, the neighbour of William Moye in Battersea, London, to say that the previous night she found Bill on the floor, barely conscious. Louise lives in a flat that overlooks Bill's and she would often look through her window to see him in his kitchen with Harry, his lovely dog. On Friday she realised that she had not seen him for a while and was staring through the window when she saw Harry acting strangely, and pacing back and forth. She continued to watch with growing concern when suddenly she saw an arm reach out to pat Harry's head. It was obvious that Bill was on the floor, just out of sight, and if he hadn't moved to pat Harry she would never have seen him. Louise went straight to Bill's house, thankfully the back door was unlocked, and she called an ambulance straight away. Next to the phone was our number which clearly stated that in case of emergencies, call The Cinnamon Trust to look after Harry. By the time the ambulance arrived it was quite late so Louise decided to make sure Harry was ok and call us first thing. An hour after we took Louise's call we had a volunteer on her way to collect Harry and all his things.

We called the hospital to see how Bill was but were told that he had not regained consciousness and had passed away not long after he had arrived. When we spoke to Louise to tell her the news she was sad, but not surprised, as he had been very ill. He had lived in the property since he was 2 years old when he moved there with his Mum. He married but his wife had died a few years ago and they



had no children. With no relatives, Harry was the only family Bill had. We reassured Louise that Bill had made arrangements with The Trust and registered Harry years ago just in case anything happened to him. Harry would be safe with us.

.....continued by **John Hallam** in Nottinghamshire:

"Hello everyone,

My name is John, long-term foster carer for Harry.

Harry came to me at the end of September after living with the same family all his life in the city. It has been quite a change for him as he now lives in a very rural part of the countryside and he has adapted very well.



I have 2 ponies which I carriage drive with and as you can see from the photos, he has been on the carriage, and I'm hoping to take him out when the weather changes.

I think Harry is loving his new way of life with me and I'm so pleased The Cinnamon Trust matched him up with me as we get on so well together!"



This is lovely from **Katie Bainbridge** in Cornwall who loves **Bella**.



"On 17th June, 2020, I lost one of the loves of my life; Izzy, my cat. We were soul mates and I could not foresee me ever replacing her and of course, I never did. This said, when time passed, I realised that not to have another rescue cat would be depriving one of a very loving and caring home. It was then that I applied to The Cinnamon Trust to foster.

The right cat found her way to me.

Her name is Bella and she is the sweetest, prettiest and most loving little soul. I live with my Mum and we both adore her. She hasn't had an easy life at times (she initially ran away and went to live on a roundabout when her mum was taken into hospital) but from what I can see of her nature, she has also been very well loved by her previous mum.

When she came to us, she was a little ball of purring fluff, and quite a lightweight kitty. Cats often purr when they are stressed, as well as when they are happy. Also, cats, like people, can lose their appetite when stressed. It was our mission to make her feel as loved and cared for as was possible. For four nights she would jump onto my bed and meow for attention and cuddles. Sometimes she would sleep downstairs and wake up meowing, not knowing where she was. I would go down and comfort her and she would settle down again. Bella was also hyperactive for about four weeks after arriving. That settled down, thankfully as she became more used to her new home.

Not once since we got her has she messed the floor or done any damage, and quite frankly, it wouldn't matter if she did. We love her so much. It will be one year since we got Bella on February 27th 2022. She loves to play and has settled in so well now. Her favourite game is grabbing feathers that we push under the door for her. She also likes to herd us off to bed, for some unknown reason. It's not for cuddles or anything else. When she has got me into bed, she sits on the floor looking at me as if to say, 'job done', and wanders off. Most mysterious.

It's so easy to close our hearts when we have suffered a loss, but when we do, we shut out the opportunity to help others, and ourselves. Life is better with a furry friend."



Lindsey Ann Stockton and **Victoria Sinclair** volunteers in Staffordshire combine to tell us about the gorgeous **Alfie**:

From Lindsey.....

"I first met Betty and Alfie, her then 11-year-old Lhasa Apso, in December 2018. Betty was struggling to exercise Alfie herself, and, although he had regular outings with a couple of Betty's friends, Ann and Maureen, this wasn't really enough for a little fellow so full of energy!

The first step was to introduce Alfie to Ted, my then 7 year old Beagle. This took place in Betty's living room, as this was where Alfie liked to greet guests! They hit it off straightaway and I arranged to walk Alfie every Monday.



Betty with Alfie

Alfie had not had a great deal of experience of socialising with other dogs, not because he was in any way aggressive, but because he was a typical frustrated greeter! His over enthusiastic barking often put other dogs off coming anywhere near him, and we became a very familiar sight - and sound! - in the local park. Over the months his behaviour improved significantly, partly, I think, due to observing Ted - never would I have dreamt that my Beagle could become a role model! Alfie calmed down around other dogs, and was finally able to say hello. He also met ducks, chickens, pigeons, sheep and cows, all of which were initially

greeted with a bark, but which Alfie soon learnt to take in his stride.

Despite his age, Alfie was full of energy. He wanted to do everything in a hurry - much to Ted's disgust, as he preferred a snail's pace, enabling him to forensically examine everything with his snout! We regularly covered 4 miles on our walks and Alfie was still raring to go when we got back.

In Sept 2019 Alfie developed an ulcer on his right eye, and despite the best efforts of the vets, his eye had to be removed. Alfie coped amazingly well with the operation and his reduced sight, although he did develop a tendency to bump into things - and Ted! Unfortunately, within a couple of months Alfie developed an ulcer on his other eye. This dramatically reduced his vision and he found it very difficult to adjust. On our first outing after the ulcer appeared, he was totally disorientated. Anything and everything terrified him and he cowered in my arms for a lot of the walk.

However, in true Alfie style, he bounced back. His sight improved and he was soon back to his old self. He required ongoing treatment to his eye, which was difficult for Betty to manage, so I increased my walking commitment to 4 days a week and with additional volunteer help from The Trust it enabled me to act as Alfie's nurse!

He remained a devoted companion to Betty, and, despite his reduced vision, he was very adept at not getting under her feet! He also very much appreciated the lift Betty had installed to help with her own limited mobility, and chose this mode of transport at bedtime rather than having the effort of the stairs! At this time another Cinnamon Trust volunteer, Victoria, started walking Alfie on a Friday, and also became part of his medical team! The help was amazing!

Betty lost her sight almost completely and at nearly 90 she found it increasingly difficult to cope with Alfie, so she approached The Trust and asked if he could be homed within The Trust. Alfie was now 13, so this was not going to be easy to achieve. But the dream solution appeared. Victoria, Alfie's Friday walker, had grown incredibly attached to the little man, and offered to have him. This meant that Alfie was with someone who knew him and loved him, and also that Betty would still be able to see him. It couldn't have been more perfect."

And from Victoria.....

"Alfie didn't have much experience with cats, so it was quite a shock for my cat, Lucky, when he moved in! With time, patience and lots of support from The Cinnamon Trust (who were always there if needed on the end of the phone to give advice and reassurance), Alfie and Lucky have learned to co-exist in the same home really well and Alfie is much calmer around the cat now. Alfie has such a lovely temperament that he is a joy to live with and it is great that we were able to foster him. A big bonus of Alfie being able to stay local is that he can go to the same groomer - a veterinary nurse who knows him well and knows how to make sure his eye is protected from his fast growing fur and also protected during the grooming process.

The best thing of all about this arrangement is that Alfie was able to visit Betty including going to her 90th birthday tea-party, where he was guest of honour with Ted and the other dog walkers. Alfie is really happy in his new home and very well loved. He has had lots of adventures since he moved in with me - he has been on a train, stayed in hotels and has been to the sea-side for the first time too! Betty said she was very happy with how things had worked out and she loved hearing about all his trips and outings and I enjoyed having someone to share them with – it is very special living with a dog that so many other people also already love so much. Lindsey and Ted also visited Betty every week for tea and biscuits so we really felt like a family.

We last visited Betty just before Christmas 2021 where Betty enjoyed some time with Alfie sleeping on her lap. She started calling me Alfie's mum and herself Alfie's grandma! I grew very fond of Betty and enjoyed spending time with her and hearing her stories too.

Betty died peacefully in her sleep on 11th January 2022. Her funeral took place on 27th January, with special permission granted to Ted and Alfie to attend, both receiving special mention from the vicar and Alice her daughter! Betty had requested that donations go to The Cinnamon Trust.

Through The Cinnamon Trust, I found a very dear friend, who came to occupy a very important place in my life. Lindsay, Ted, Alfie and I will miss Betty greatly. Alice

and I stay in touch, as does Lindsey and I'm sure we'll all have great fun reminiscing about her mum. Lindsay and I will also maintain contact and will walk our boys together.

The story of Alfie and Betty encompasses so many of the wonderful things that The Cinnamon Trust do, and I feel so proud to have been part of it."



In Somerset, **Holly** is adored by **Teresa Hopkins**:

"Holly's life had not been an easy one, but the last two years she spent with a lovely kind lady, Miss Audrey Wild, who gave her the love and support she needed. Holly was found in a public bin in a box and in a plastic bag, she had not long had kittens (unfortunately the kittens were never found). She then became a RSPCA cruelty case and after, a while, she was adopted by Audrey who cared for her until she passed away.



The Cinnamon Trust was contacted by Audrey's family asking for Holly (who had been profiled by her) to be found a new permanent home and that's when we received the phone call from Moira at the Cinnamon Trust asking if we would like to become long term fosterers for Holly.

Holly arrived and we instantly fell in love with her! She spent the first few days behind the settee, but didn't take her long to start exploring her new surroundings!

We absolutely adore her! She loves to sit on my lap in the evening on her favourite blanket, and playing with her catnip mouse, and having a mad 5 minutes running up and down the stairs! We have a large garden, surrounded by fields; Holly wasn't keen at first (it all looked a bit scary), preferring a nice warm lap and a blanket! But, as the warmer weather arrived, we would see her outside exploring and basking in the sun.

Holly has definitely enriched our lives, and we wouldn't be without her now, and just want to give her the life she so deserves."



Pumpkin and **Truffles** are loved by **Ann** and **Ian Croft** (and Grandchildren!) in Yorkshire:

“In March last year we lost our much loved and special little Terrier, Lilly, at the ripe old age of 16. She had accompanied us on our many walking holidays over her lifetime. We were dog bereft!

On the recommendation of a friend I volunteered with The Cinnamon Trust to dog walk and foster. Two weeks later, I received a phone call asking if we would be interested in permanent fostering of 2 lovely girls, Pumpkin, a Havanese x Toy Poodle age 3, and Truffles, a 13 year old Cockapoo, as their owner had sadly died. I said I would think about it as I wasn't sure I was ready for another dog! However a photo duly arrived and we were instantly smitten!



The girls arrived from Devon to North Yorkshire and they settled in immediately and soon made friends with our grandchildren who love them as much as we do! We are now showing them the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and are taking them next week to the gorgeous beaches in Northumberland.

We are so grateful to The Cinnamon Trust for choosing us to foster these adorable girls!”



Chip is living the life with **Sophie Cowen** in Hampshire:

“I first heard about The Cinnamon Trust during the first lockdown and thought it would be a lovely idea to volunteer. I imagined that on the estate I live on there could be a little dog that would perhaps be missing their walks due to owners shielding. Little did I know that a few weeks after registering my details, I'd get a call to see if I would be interested in walking a Chocolate Labrador in the next town along from me. Of course, I agreed, and arranged with the owners to visit that weekend.

Upon arrival I was greeted with a rather large choccy Lab named Chip! He



bounded to the gate to greet me and off we went! Sadly, Chip couldn't manage a long walk due to his joints and weight, but nonetheless we enjoyed our outing together and I arranged to go back each evening to take Chip out.

Within the first month, I saw a huge improvement in Chip's mobility. He was getting quicker and was able to go on further walks each time. He soon told me when he had done enough by planting his paws firmly on the ground and refusing to go further! Occasionally I'd take a friend or my husband, he absolutely loved meeting new people and having a fuss made of him!

Out of the blue I got a call from The Trust to say that Chip's owner had passed away and he was being looked after by a family member who couldn't keep him. After some family discussions and a home check, Chip came to live with us.

Chip moved in and settled almost straight away. With support from the wonderful vet nurses at The Trust we got in control of Chip's untreated skin condition and planned a diet. We worked together to achieve where he is now. Chip has lost 13kg on his journey with us, his skin condition is now under control and he has help with his joints to enable lovely walks without any discomfort.

His favourite place is the beach running along the sand, or snuggled up between us on the sofa! He's quite partial to a pub visit too, which fits in perfectly with us! We take Chip on our travels with us down to Devon, he absolutely loves our adventures together.

We couldn't thank The Cinnamon Trust enough for supporting his needs. Chip certainly is very grateful and we are forever thankful that Chip has been brought into our family."



Remember **Luka** from the last newsletter, we took him to visit his mum, Liz in the hospice just before she died. Here's an update from **Geraldine Searle**:

"Since fostering Luka on the 18th January after his mum Liz passed away, I have

made a true and emotional relationship with this beautiful gypsy cob.

He would neigh when the horses across the way went into another field, but now he realises they come back so he settles himself. He likes being with the cows and has taken up residence with them, they are in the field next to his outdoor shelter which The Cinnamon Trust kindly provided, he makes good use of this on sunny and rainy days. He has also made friends with the three cats and my two German Shepherds (Denzel and Shiloh). Sometimes Denzel gets worried as Luka sniffs his red ball and plays with it. He looks at me as if to say "Tell him that's my ball!"



Every day we go for a good stroll up the lane, around and down the country lanes where I live. In the village he is becoming a regular sight, he is known to people on dog walks and he stops off at each house expecting carrots. This all started when my neighbour gave him carrots so he now thinks all the houses are happy to supply him. And you know what, they do!! He does his rounds and if somebody is not in they leave his carrots outside on the steps.

I've been long reining him with the hope that one day in the future we can take up driving but there's no rush so I am just letting him enjoy life. He likes being in the front garden with the dogs and us, he's a big part of the family and can always poke his head through the front room window. I think he would actually try and get into the house if he could, he is such a sociable animal.

He's happy as Larry and no trouble at all, he has settled in so well, better than I would have ever expected, one very lucky horse, I think he knows he's landed on his feet. I'm sure Liz is looking from above smiling you have done him proud."



Puff and **William** now live in Cornwall with **Tony May** and **Christine Roach**. **Anne Phair** a friend of the owner (and supporter of Cinnamon Trust) **Thelma Roberts** writes:

In memory of Thelma Roberts, a great supporter of The Cinnamon Trust for many years.

"Thelma and I came to be good friends. I helped with her shopping, bills, general care, etc., and it was because of Thelma that I saw first-hand the wonderful work that The Cinnamon Trust does. The Trust enabled Thelma to keep her dogs with her, as the charity does for so many people, right up until she died.

A couple of years ago, Thelma had to go to hospital as she had a fall and damaged her knee. Along came a wonderful volunteer from Cinnamon, who looked after her 2 lovely dogs, Puff the Westie, and William, a Jack Russell; they were with the lovely couple about 3 months. When Thelma came home from hospital, carers were in place and back came Puff and William. Thelma had had lovely photos during their stay and she was given a photo album of the dogs for her to keep.

Thelma was always so appreciative of the charity. Her regular dog walkers were Lennie and Maggie, really lovely ladies and Thelma would look forward to seeing them. Previous to those, was Lynne, whom Thelma got very close to. A few weeks ago, my dear friend Thelma had a fall; she'd broken her hip, she went off to hospital, and along came another lovely couple to look after Puff and William.



Tony with Puff and William

Sadly Thelma passed away, very upsetting; she was a good lady, and it was my privilege to look after her. Her carers were brilliant, and one came up on her day off from work to wait with Thelma for the ambulance along with myself and her other carer. I will miss Thelma and Puff and William. The boys used to follow me to the kitchen, ever hopeful for a treat, which invariably they got. Who can resist 2 cute little dogs? Thelma always knew that Puff and William would be looked after by The Cinnamon Trust, everyone who knew her did. When the time came they went to their long term foster home with a new Mum and Dad, Tony and Christine.

Thelma was buried with her husband at Tintagel,

Cornwall. It was a lovely service, and as we walked in, Puff and William were there. They had flowers in their collars, I started crying, and it was just magical. They were so good, and Puff kept looking at Thelma's coffin. It was just lovely, they were with Thelma to the end."



Rossi will steal your heart with just one look, he's at Poldarves Farm now, so much more about him later! But **Karen Bennett** (owner) Margaret's daughter wrote to us:

"My mum recently passed away after a long illness and your volunteers Martin and Lyn walked my mum's dog Rossi regularly for approx. 4 years. Without them and the help of The Cinnamon Trust, she would not have been able to keep him.

Rossi chose my mum when we visited the rescue centre in 2013, he had been a street dog and been overlooked for about a year. Mum loved him with all her heart and he loved her back, he was a very good companion for 9 years. As Mum's condition deteriorated she became bed bound and Rossi never left her side; he was with her until she died.

The Cinnamon Trust has taken Rossi in and he has now retired to their sanctuary in Cornwall. Martin even took Rossi himself to ensure he settled in and was happy. I cannot thank you all enough for the support and compassion shown to my Mum and me at such a difficult time. My Mum had the peace of mind knowing Rossi would be happy and after seeing a recent photo of him on a beach, Mum would certainly approve."



....and volunteers **Martin** and **Lynn Laramy** have also written:

"Lynn and I started walking Rossi in 2018. He is a Staffi and lived with his Mum Margaret. He is a very determined dog.

We quickly learned and would always telephone before driving over to walk Rossi. For example, if it was raining, Rossi would say a big NO to going out. If it started raining whilst he was out, he would refuse to budge unless homeward bound. Attempts to outwit Rossi, by trying different directions, were generally thwarted.

However, not knowing the area for walking, we soon learned new routes to explore and Rossi would lead in a very sprightly way, sniffing nearly every blade of grass he passed. Sometimes, we would both take him along with our Rough Collie Meg. After the initial greeting, they would both do their own thing. Rossi totally ignored other dogs and cats and people.

Rossi was a rescued street dog and had developed an amazing bond with his Mum. If she was feeling poorly, Rossi would not leave her side. Sadly Margaret passed away recently but in her own home with Rossi by her side so he was able to say goodbye and grieve.

Martin drove him down to the sanctuary near Hayle to spend the rest of his days in doggie luxury. Rossi travelled the 120 odd miles well and settled very quickly. He hardly paused to say goodbye. We will miss him but I am not sure he will miss us. But that's ok..."



Volunteers who have received **Gold Awards** for exceptional service are:

Anne Coughlin (Cheshire), **Helen Whitfield** and **Anne Boyd** (Tyne & Wear), **Jen Brown** (County Durham), **Jo Andrews** (Somerset), **Resli Costabell** (London).

Long Service Awards (over 10 years) to:

Caroline and **Trevor Spriggs** (Somerset), **Amanda Coulson** (Ceredigion), **Dr Kay Flatten** and **Hilary Matheson** (Monmouthshire), **Ruth Hamilton** (Cambridgeshire), **Lynda** and **Andrew Matthews** (Worcestershire), **Donald Stoye** (Dorset), **Kay Silver** (Essex), **Yvonne Walke** (Herefordshire), **Amanda Sauer** (Stirlingshire), **Carl Drinkwater** (West Midlands), **Linda Marshall** (Norfolk), **Chris Neal** (Devon).

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

Andrew Purchase (Berkshire), **Billy** and **Lynne Bell** (Stirlingshire), **Jean Heron** and **Hannah Dawson** (South Yorkshire), **Lynn Bullock** and **Liz Richards** (Somerset).

To each and every one of our 20,075 registered volunteers, thank you. Thank you for being there, for your dedication, for your kindness, for your love and your time. The impact you make is immeasurable and without you this world, for thousands of people and their beloved pets, would be so dark and so sad. You bring sunshine, you bring love and you bring joy.

This from the Pet Friendly Care Homes and Retirement Estates on our register...

Irene a resident at **Allenbrook Care Home** in Hampshire celebrated her 101st birthday earlier this year and **Fox**, the manager **Ian Stott's** 3 year old Vizla, was happy to join the celebrations. The first person he heads towards is Irene knowing that she will have a biscuit waiting for him. Best friends for sure! Fox visits the residents every day and has been doing this since he was a pup.



Irene and Fox



Winston the tortoise has recently joined **Hillbrow Residential Home** in Surrey, an addition to **Cheeky** the cat who spends her time sleeping on the residents' beds. During COVID lock down there was a wishing tree and one of the residents had a wish to have a tortoise to care for. Her wish came true!!



Bleak House in Hull have always had dogs and cats, unfortunately in 2016 they lost their Labrador Cross and with a new extension being built they had to go without having a new four legged friend for a while. In August 2021 the extension was complete and this meant **Ted** the Spoodle (Springer/Poodle), could join the family. **Sarah Turley** the Home Manager says "Ted has brought a lot of joy with him and is loved at both Bleak House and their sister home next door Coates Garden House. His favourite thing to do is try to climb trees, the residents get a lot of laughter and joy watching him try his hardest to do it. Residents have been



spurred on to go out walking again and get some exercise, especially those who through the pandemic were scared to leave the home. Ted really has brought light back into our homes after a difficult two years and put a smile back on people's faces."

Party animals!!!!



Jean and Charlie

● ● ●

Charlie the Resident dog at **Lakelands Care Home** in Norfolk lives with his owner **Jean** and is loved by all the staff, residents and their families. During the day, he likes to stay in the office with his favourite place being on the desk; sometimes it can be a little difficult to type but nobody can bring themselves to disturb him ...Ha Ha... Charlie loves to go to party days as you can see in the photo with Jean celebrating the jubilee.



● ● ●

With the hot weather over the Jubilee weekend I think one and all enjoyed their ice creams at **Branksome Heights**, Dorset. **Cindy**, a very friendly crossbreed, particularly enjoyed the Jubilee celebrations! Cindy lives with Dad **Nigel** and comes to visit mum **Yvonne** at the care home. Cindy is a very placid, friendly dog and the residents really enjoy seeing her. She is such a patient dog and is always rewarded with a treat and, as it was a party this time, she had her own ice cream.



Noodle with Moira and Mitchell

● ● ●

Care Manager **Charlotte** takes her dog **Noodle** to work at least once a week. The photo was taken at the home's Jubilee tea/street party in the garden where Noodle can be seen having a well-deserved break with resident **Moira** and guest **Mitchell**. This was the first big event held since COVID, now that the restrictions are more relaxed. **The Old Rectory**, Stafford usually host a summer party every year where all family are invited. The themed parties are enjoyed by all and have included a Mad Hatter's tea party and 'Food from around the world' party.

Hillside Farm Sanctuary

We have had some wonderful wildlife at Hillside this summer, a particular joy was a couple of fawns, all wobbly legged, so very young indeed, following their mum into our woodland field before disappearing into the undergrowth. Fox cubs have been noisily playing at dusk until called to order by their parents. We have a visiting hedgehog and several

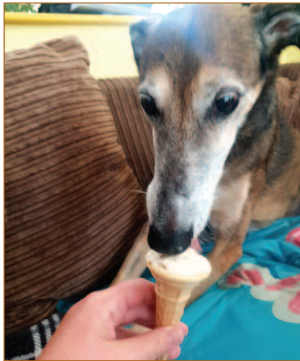


pheasants who know our routines so well that they meet us in the same place at the same time every morning and evening for breakfast and supper! Our stream has all but dried up so we have left a goodly supply of water for them all in buckets, trays and bowls throughout the sanctuary.

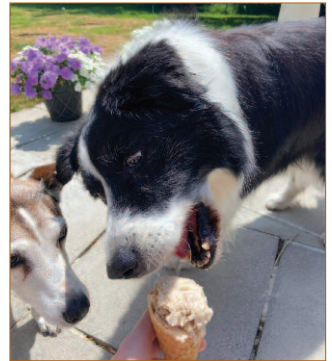
It has been a super summer, wall to wall sunshine – the really scorching hot days called for lots of cooling treats – ice lollies, ice creams, frozen licky mats. The horses, dogs and chickens have been treat bobbing their favourite treats. The paddling pools, cooling mats and new tower fans have all helped to keep everyone happy!



Andy



Heidi



Poppy

We were very sad to lose two of our sheep, **Shop Steward** (15) and **Anthea** (16), more sad times when we said a last good night to gorgeous cats **Zoro** (14) and **Ferdie** (16) and our elegant Wolfhound cross **Annie** (14), sweet little Staffie **Leena** (15) and our little Cairn cross **Bailey** (13).

Just when we really needed cheering up, we found out that Deb and Ange from HQ (Deb who usually looks for long term fosters and Ange who supports with



Smash and Grab enjoying a flower spa!

aftercare) are tortoise experts, so we high-tailed them to Hillside and they completely transformed our tortoise spaces, inside and out – this is still a work in progress but the results have been fabulous with some very happy, very active and very inquisitive tortoises! They can climb and dig and tunnel, forage their favourite plants, they can bathe and they have toys to play with which we

swap on a regular basis so there is always something new.



Ginger

Thus encouraged, we started on quite a drastic revamp of the cat gardens which now include big tubs and cat mint – perfect to sit on! And a chicken run – all happily with the same result! Both still a work in progress.

We couldn't miss out on a Jubilee Garden Party. Our table was spread with all the party fare you can think of – the dogs voted chicken sandwiches cut into little triangles top of the goodies, with sausage rolls and cake racing up behind! The cats enjoyed chicken too and boiled eggs. There was an adapted recipe for



bread and butter pudding for the chickens which was a great hit – not a morsel left! And we played games long into the afternoon – Pin the Crown on the Corgi, hoop-la, Bingo (the dogs picked a



numbered ball and we marked our cards) – most of the dogs got the idea but some were for too enthusiastic and grabbed a few balls at a time! After very many happy hours **Holly** called time!

We have been out and about with the dogs – to the forest, the moors, the reservoir where a visit to the café is a must, to the lavender fields at the farm shop..... even shopping!



Poppy in the woods



Charlie Brown at the reservoir



Angel in the lavender fields



Jake goes shopping

And four very handsome cats have joined us here at Hillside. First came **Tigger** (16) and **Patches** (10). It's fair to say they are not overly affectionate with each other but they always look for each other and sleep close at night.

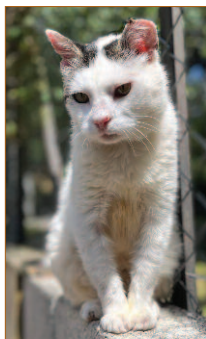
Tigger has a boundless energy that belies his years and he loves playing with toys and ticklers but wands are his absolute favourite, he leaps about, chases and pounces like a kitten until he is satisfied that the toy has been subdued! He also loves the gardens and spends many happy hours watching the world go by, just popping in from time to time to make sure he's not missing anything – more importantly fresh salmon, his favourite! He loves chin tickles and he likes a fuss but he also lets you know when he's had enough by holding your hand in his mouth..... Patches is quite the opposite! He is a very gentle little soul who loves nothing more than cuddles on laps, purring for England! He runs to you very quickly if you call him, holding his head up for kisses..... He also loves the gardens – sitting on a log, bird watching is a favourite pastime, and he seems



Tigger



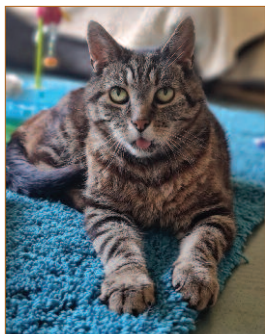
Patches



Snowy

fascinated by the little garden “houses” and the pop holes we have put in to connect all the gardens – all the cats loves these, they can go adventuring.

Snowy (12) and **Darkie** (15) have very little to do with each other! Each has his own life and that’s the way they like it! Snowy is very affectionate, he greets everyone with a most distinctive meow, rubbing around your legs, asking for head rubs before rolling on his back for tummy tickles. He loves to sit with you on the sofa basking in attention. He’s quite the lady’s man and has particularly charmed Olive, one of our oldest girls and they often share a sofa. He is very adventurous and loves the gardens and



Darkie

he has a terrific appetite! Darkie is a laid back chilled out boy. He has his favourite sofa where you are expected to sit next to him and cuddle. Like Snowy he loves his food and treats, especially if delivered to him on his sofa! He loves to be groomed and pampered and he’s very much a sun worshipper. He watches Tigger’s antics with great interest, we would love to know what he’s thinking about all the leaping and chasing and killing of toys.

The leaves are falling fast, the days shorter, the year rushing by, and before we know it we will be organizing Christmas decorations and more importantly Christmas dinner!



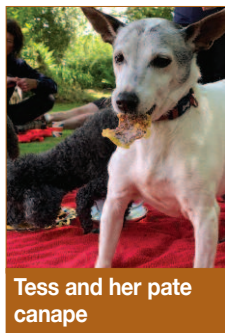
Poldarves Farm Sanctuary

We have had a wonderful summer! The highlight has to be our Jubilee Garden





Tiffany likes Salmon!



Tess and her pate canape



Zac enjoying a cup of tea



Lucy and Blue can't wait

Party, blessed with a beautiful day, the dappled shade of the trees made a perfect place for our table laden with lots of goodies and, of course, our scones were made the Cornish way with cream on top! And you would be surprised at just how many of our residents enjoy a nice cup of tea.

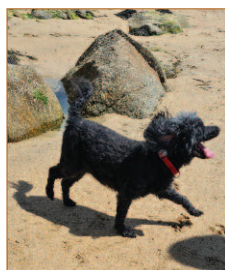
We have spent many balmy evenings on the beach, where the dogs now think they are going to have ice cream every time! They like Mr Whippy ice cream and most decidedly eschew the ice cream made for dogs except for **Gemma** (Yorkie) who wouldn't leave her carton and carried it all the way home! The woods made for shady walks on hot days with a little stream to cool paws in.



Pepe

At home, the padding pool has been well used, favourite ice lollies coming off the production line every day – sweetcorn for the chickens, fruit for the squirrels, squashed banana and snapdragon flowers for the tortoises, sprats for the cats.....

Pepper Pig spent many hours in her big deep wallow – completely covered in mud when she comes out! The ponies very much enjoyed their baths – and aim to emulate Pepper as they roll, still wet and stand up looking as if they had a mud bath!

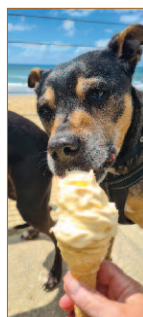


Mitzi

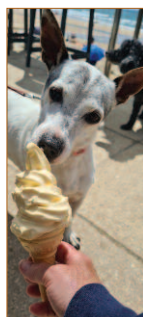
Like Hillside, Deb and Ange from HQ have helped us give the tortoise space a massive make over with lots of things to climb over and under, places to dig, paddling pools, toys and lots of



New adventures for the tortoises



Rossi



Tess



Timmy's shower

new plants. **Timmy** loved a shower made from a watering can – he would walk under the water, stretch his little neck out and stretch his legs out as far as they would go and stay there with a smile on his face until all the water was gone. The watering can shower is a firm favourite with the ducks too and they all hop up and try to catch the water droplets!

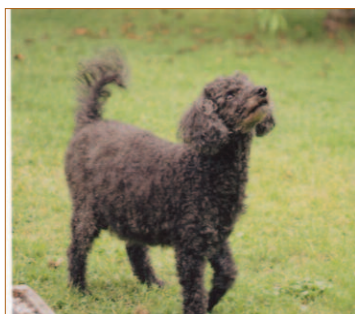
For the cats we have planted wonderful big tubs with catmint in each garden which they promptly sit in to sunbathe. The cats, too, have a splash pool – but its dainty paw pats on the water rather than splashing or wallowing!

Memories of this happy summer will always bring a smile and linger long, but still we couldn't escape the sadness of losing **Ethel May** (16), a sweet black and white cat, **Simon** (7) our Chinese goose, **Imp** (14) darling gentleman Labrador, **Ben** (18) Parsons Jack Russell, **Millie** (17) Toy Poodle, never, ever to be forgotten, **Sammy** (17) Lakeland Terrier of great character and **Harry** (9) first up for a cuddle squirrel.



Mitzi

Mitzi and **Zac**, 12 year old sister and brother have added some zing! Mitzi loves to cuddle and snuggles down as far as possible in her bed, so quiet you won't know she's there and then Walkies! WAW! Jumping, leaping, squeaking, the excitement making her ears stick out sideways like a miniature flying Dumbo! Legs moving so fast you are not quite sure which one is where. After her post walk treat, she goes back to bed and back to sleep, but don't be fooled, she's just waiting and always watching for someone to play with her – her energy is boundless. At night, Mitzi will only sleep on a pillow, if there's a head to wrap around so much the better and she loves to give kisses but you have to watch out for what delicacies she may have just been eating!



Zac

Zac is a gorgeous boy, full of fun, loves toys, especially his teddy. He carries it around, takes it to his bed and sucks it and won't let anyone else have it, but he will abandon it for food, any food, just loves food and is rather partial to a cup of tea! Zac is up for a game anywhere, anytime – you can't ignore him, he will come and put a ball or toy right

in your hand so that you know exactly what he wants. Like his sister, he is very fond of wrapping himself up so that only his cheeky little face is visible. Zac hates to be on his own and if this ever happens, he howls like a wolf to bring everyone running!

Pepe (13) is such a dapper little chap with the most extravagant trot that he could easily be a little show dog! Pepe likes to sit by the door and check out who is coming in and expects everyone to give him a pet – he won't go to them, they have to come to him, on his throne by the door. He's full of fun and loves to play with toys and particularly loves tug of war – he keeps going until he gets his prize! He loves his food and sits up on his back legs and sings and won't stop until he gets what he wants. Pepe also loves to be pampered and gets extremely excited after a bath, runs around like a puppy, showing off! He's a very expressive little boy, he lets you know what he wants and is happy to tell us off if we don't get it right! A fabulous little boy with a big presence.

Tess (15) is a darling. A very quiet, unassuming little lady who will suddenly burst into an explosion of pure joy, zooming in and out of every room, she adores going on walks and her excitement and enthusiasm lets everyone know a walk is imminent! Tess loves her food but waits politely until it's her turn – her favourite roast chicken, tho' has her drooling! When she's tired she finds the biggest, comfiest bed and claims it for herself, and she absolutely loves the sun and will stretch out on a blanket in the garden and drift off with her legs stretched and a big, contented sigh.

Gemma (14) is a little beauty, a real gem, so aptly named! She is super cute and loves people – her tail wags so fast it's really quite



Pepe



Tess



Gemma



Chilli

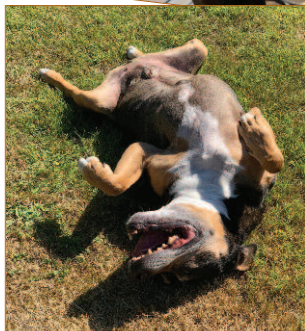
incredible, she adores a tummy tickle. A real love of life, she has masses of energy. She loves a drive in the car, anticipating somewhere exciting, loves the beach, loves the vets, loves the woods, loves her food, loves being groomed, loves everybody and everything! One particular love is Tess and Gemma will sneak into her big bed and gently give her kisses and cuddle up to her. Only Gemma is allowed to do this.....



Chilli (13) was the love of Frank Windsor's life (famous from Z cars). She is beautiful, a real lady, gentle and kind. She loves ginger nut biscuits and will very gently and slowly eat them but you have to break them into bite size bits! She likes to lounge on the sofa, spreading herself right across it, stretching long limbs out. She does like a nice human leg to rest her head upon and loves her ears being rubbed. Then, when it's time to go for a walk, she lights up, leaps up and when we are out she can go from 0-60 in a second, the Ferrari of the dog world! Chilli loves the beaches where she leaps like a gazelle and makes full use of the freedom of a long sandy stretch and of course, don't forget the ice cream! No matter how much food she eats, she remains sleek and beautiful.



Rossi (14) is a huge character. A joyous, clever boy who looks at you and you can see his soul, he has brought the magic of the incredible bond he and his owner Margaret shared to Poldarves and embraced life here to the full. His party trick is opening doors! It took a while to work out what was happening – when it's time for everyone to go out for a late night pee, we get all the dogs out the front door, Rossi leads the way – suddenly they all come up behind you, back in the house! Rossi takes them all around the house to the back door, opens it and lets everyone back in! Rossi is a real foodie and his big brain has worked out that if there is anything near the edge of a table or kitchen worktop, if he pulls, there is a good chance of toppling something tasty, and rucksacks probably contain a sandwich! He will think nothing of helping himself to a treat even if someone



Rossi

else is eating it, but he is so gentle, never snatches and he licks his ice cream slowly, you can tell he thinks it's delicious! Rossi is a really confident, happy boy with a favourite upside position, sprawled right out on a rug or the grass where he loves to sunbathe. He likes to sleep on the sofa and he snores very loudly! When he's been out, he will dash back in and throw himself down in the middle of the floor letting everyone know, he's here, belly up, ready for a tummy rub! A beautiful soul, a wonderful dog.

It's hard to look forward with much enthusiasm to winter after this lovely summer, but there is the magic of Christmas and we do, very much, look forward to that! And the residents do enjoy autumn leaves to play with, frosty morning walks and extra sofa snuggles!



Poetry Corner

This is such a heartfelt poem written by our volunteer **Holly Day** about **Phoebe** the little Jack Russell who she walked for Malcolm Cameron until he moved to a hospice and Phoebe went to live with a friend of his.

Phoebe's Poem

One last walk through the woods together, just you and I.
Strolling through the beauty of the trees, and gazing up at the sky.

I feel safe, and happy and loved, as we traipse along side by side.
Enjoying each other's company, while watching the world go by.

Special hugs and kisses we share, make all life's troubles melt away.
All that matters is you and I, forever, like this, I could stay.

Wandering through nature, appreciating her grace.
I feel so blessed as I glimpse at you, in awe of your friendly face.

I know I am so lucky, because, memories like these never die.
Although I try to blink back the tears, as we have to say goodbye.

I will carry you in my heart, for all the rest of time.
And the joyful times we shared together, will never leave my mind.

You left me a memorable place to visit, if I am feeling low.
And when I want to feel you close, to the woods I will go.

Our next poem by **Jane Anthony**, I dedicate to Queenie and her sister Betty:

With love Together

We can look back now, you and I
On quite a stretch of time gone by
Since as a pup I came to see
That you were all the world to me.

They haven't all been primrose ways
That we have trodden since those days.
It hasn't all been sunny weather
That we have travelled through together.

But though the seasons come and go,
One faith remains, one thing I know,
Without you life stands still and then
I hear your voice, I live again.

For years, though they can make us old
Can never make the heart grow cold
And youth that's fading has no sting,
Where love is, time can't do a thing.



And Finally....

What a year it's been. We've had a record breaking Summer, we've helped 97,400 people with 98,147 beloved pets, we've witnessed historical events with no precedent that lifted us high, then cast us down. It's difficult at this moment to look too far ahead so we'll keep doing what we do, those we help will always need us. We can look forward to Christmas, we can take strength from the eternal message of peace, love and hope. We can take that with us as the New Year approaches and as ever, we can raise a glass and remember with everlasting love and gratitude, absent friends.

God Bless, everyone and God Bless HM King Charles and his Queen Consort, Camilla who has been special to us ever since she visited in 2007.

Happy Christmas and may 2023 be kind to us all.

Averil R. Jarvis MBE
Founder and Chief Executive