

BULLETIN 52 – January 2005

Dear Members and Friends

A very happy 2005 to you all!

I am afraid that this Bulletin is shorter than normal as it is being written by me rather than Marjorie. Unfortunately we were involved in a very nasty car accident on Boxing Day – we were hit virtually head on by an oncoming car that had lost control. It took some two hours to free Marjorie from the car (the Fire Brigade had to cut the roof off) and she was hospitalised in Lochgilphead for five nights, and then Campbeltown for one night, before coming home on New Year's Day. Amongst her injuries included damaged ribs, much deep seated bruising and a broken wrist which means that she is unable to type. She is mending slowly but it will be some time before she is back to normal. Matty and I came out of it relatively unscathed. All the news about the wonderful Therapets up and down the country will therefore appear in later bulletins. However please keep sending in your news, stories and experiences.

Firstly, some very sad news. **Dr Brian Sproule**, who was a Trustee since the establishment of the Trust in 1988, died very suddenly on 16th January. We send our love and sympathies to his wife, Irene, and all the family. Brian was such a valuable Trustee who provided very wise counsel. He was dedicated to the objectives of the Trust and especially the Therapet Scheme. As a General Practitioner he saw at first hand the great benefits that pets, and especially dogs, provide to so many people. As a Therapet visitor, with his beloved Pharaoh Hounds, Brian brought great pleasure to the residents in the homes he visited. It was Brian who wrote the guidance notes that are issued to all new Therapet volunteers. He was also our Area Representative for the Borders. We will greatly miss Brian and we greatly appreciate all that he did for the Trust over a very long period of time.

THE PRESENTATIONS LUNCH was held at **KAIM PARK HOTEL**, Bathgate on 7th November and was a great success and Patron Lesley Fitz-Simons was able to be with us to make the presentations.

THE IAIN WHYTE MEMORIAL AWARD is made to a person or organisation whose help has contributed substantially to the benefit of the Trust during the year or over a period of years. This year we were delighted to make the award to **Mr Tony Jolly** in recognition of all the fund raising help he has given to the Trust over many years.

THE SPENCER AWARD FOR THERAPET OF THE YEAR was awarded to Mr James Fernie's quite exceptional whippet/collie cross called "Jetta" who is also a Hearing Dog for the Deaf and who had earlier in the year been honoured by the Hearing Dog for Deaf People Association, which covers the whole of the U.K. The August 2004 Bulletin provided a lot of information about Jetta.

THE DR MORRIS ANDREW & DANIEL THE SPANIEL MEMORIAL AWARD is a tribute to one of our much loved and missed Trustees, donated by his family. This is made to the **THERAPET ORGANISER OF THE YEAR**. And this year **Norma Murray**, our Representative for Tayside, was the very worthy winner.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2005 are now due and I enclose the normal renewal form. We do hope that you will continue your membership and of course it is very important, from the insurance point of view, that Therapet Volunteers keep their membership up to date. Again this year the form contains a Gift Aid Declaration. If you are a tax payer please do sign this declaration as the Trust can then recover from the Inland Revenue 28p for each £ paid by way of membership and donation.

THE FATHER JIM PEAT MEMORIAL MEDAL is available to all Therapets which have been visiting for five or more years. If your Therapet qualifies, and you have not yet received a medal, please let me know. Also we are delighted to provide **CERTIFICATES** to Therapets which have completed three years of service. Again please let me know if your Therapet qualifies.

This year's **COMPANION DOG SHOW** will again be held on the first Sunday in June, the 5th of June, in Queens Park, Glasgow. As usual we need as many helpers as possible on the day. If you are able to lend a hand please get in touch with either John Stead, Show Manager, on 01436 675381, or me at the office.

Our **AREA REPRESENTATIVES** up and down the country do such wonderful and dedicated work. I would like to grab this opportunity to say a public "thank you" to them all for all that they do. We are very lucky to have so many people who give so willingly of their time and energy.

Once again a series of sponsored walks, **STEPPING OUT FOR SCOTLAND**, were held in 2004. Again very many thanks to all who organised them, all who took part and all who provided sponsorship. Here are the details:-

Venue	Organiser	Total
Forfar	Norma Murray	£751.80
Dumfries	Maureen Hill	£803.00
Strathclyde Park	Deborah Clark	£168.50
Largs	Alexandra Cain	£ 46.00
Glasgow	James Macdonald	£638.00
Elgin	Maureen Thomson	£ 90.00
Carnoustie	Marjory Smith – solo	£ 60.00
Machrihanish	Self & Matty – solo	£147.00
Largs	Joyce Robertson – solo	£ 20.00
	Overall Total	£2,724.30

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 is an important piece of legislation. Whilst most of our Therapet Volunteers visit the elderly some do visit children in home, hospitals, and hospices and some also make school visits. It is vital that we obtain a Disclosure from Disclosure Scotland in respect of all our Volunteers who have contact with children during the course of their visiting. With the help of our Area Representatives I have been reviewing all of you who are, or may in the future, visiting children so that I can ensure that we have a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure. I am reasonably confident that all is in order. However if you are visiting children and I have not asked you to complete a Disclosure Application please let me know as soon as possible. You will see on the Membership Renewal Form that there is a box to tick if you visit children.

Whilst news of our **THERAPETS** and their exploits is being held over for future bulletins I am sad to record that a number of much loved Therapets and companions have died:-

Heather Anderson's "Gyp".
Yvonne & Denis Bool's "Folly"
Pamela Hunter's "Katie"
Sharon Johnstone lost both "Breagha" and "Cailin" in December
Rena Taylor's "Kylie"
Maureen Thomson's "Holly" died on 2nd January
Christine Watt's "Cheyne" who died on 5th January

If I have missed out any others I do apologise, please let me have a reminder so that mention can be made in the next bulletin.

Sally Leiper, a long standing and staunch supporter of the Trust, has written the following and kindly agreed to it being reproduced in this bulletin:-

Dear Ghosts

**I close my eyes and they are here.
Come from that secret place where old friends sleep.
They stirred at my call.
We are together now.**

**Topsy and Tibbie – Hannah and Cilla – Joseph and James.
So many faithful dogs.
Now we can go wherever memory takes us.
Up to the hill?
Down through the woodland's shady places
They are here with me.**

**But dreams must end.
My dear ghosts melt and fade.
Back to that kindly place where they will wait for me again.
Waiting, I know – until I come to them.**

Sally Leiper, 10th December 2004

As I have said there will be more news in the next Bulletin once Marjorie is back to her literary best. In the meantime please:-

- a) Renew your membership, completing the Gift Aid declaration if you qualify.
- b) Request your Father Jim Peat Memorial Medal if your Therapet qualifies.
- c) Mark in your diary the Companion Dog Show on 5th June 2005.
- d) Also note in your diary that the Presentation Lunch for 2005 will be on Sunday 20th November at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate.
- e) Think about organising or taking part in a "Stepping Out For Scotland" sponsored walk in 2005.

With very best wishes, and again apologies for the brevity of this Bulletin.

Yours sincerely

Nick Henley Price