

BULLETIN 77 – April 2013

Dear Members and Friends

As with last year's April Bulletin I have to start this one with very sad news.

LESLEY FITZ-SIMONS, who had been a most loyal Patron for twenty years, finally lost her battle with breast cancer on 26th January. I was privileged to visit Lesley in late November last year in order to present her with her twenty years of service award. She subsequently wrote saying "A big thank you to all at Canine Concern for my beautiful vase. But above all a very big thank you to Marjorie for asking me to be a Patron so many years ago." Lesley attended as many of our events as she could and always participated to the full – I well remember the ceilidhs, especially the one when Lesley was joined by co-Patrons Jimmy Logan and Robin Hall. Lesley will be missed by so many people and our hearts go out to her daughter Marnie, her mother and her partner Paddy. We were honoured to be one of the three charities selected to benefit from the collection at Lesley's funeral.

Lesley would be delighted to know that **GARY HOLLYWOOD** has agreed to become a Patron of the Trust. Both Lesley and Gary were in "Highroad" together and Gary attended some of our Companion Dog Shows with Lesley a few years ago. Gary, who stars in Mrs Brown's Boys, joins long serving Patron **ROSEMARY LONG**. The Trust is so fortunate to have had wonderful Patrons over the years and by their presence I know that Rosemary and Gary will continue to help the Trust maintain a high public profile.

With this Bulletin I enclose a copy of the Trustees' **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS** for the year ended 31 December 2012. You will be pleased to read that the Trust continues to be on a very sound financial footing. Please let me know if you have any questions about this document or any aspect of the Trust's work.

MEMBERSHIPS became due on 1st January and a great many of you have already renewed and we are extremely grateful for the large number of donations that accompany the membership fees. For those of you who have perhaps forgotten to renew this year so far, a pink reminder slip is enclosed. If you have recently paid, or if I have put in a reminder slip in error, please accept my apologies! For Therapet Volunteers it is important that memberships are up to date, not least from the insurance angle.

As many of you will know, this month is the **25th anniversary** of the establishment of **Canine Concern Scotland Trust** and the commencement of the **Therapet Service**. A number of celebratory events will be held during the year and the first of these is a **Forest Walk with Treasure Hunt**, followed by a **Novelty Dog Show**, in **Inverness on 25th May**. This event is being organised jointly by Area Representatives Vivien Moen (Badenoch & Strathspey), Susan Rae (Inverness) and Maureen Thomson (Moray). A poster is enclosed for our members in those areas and I do hope that as many as possible of you will be able to attend. I should point out that this is not a fund raising event!

Please put Sunday 17th November 2013 in your diaries. This is the date for our **Annual Awards Lunch** which we are going to make even more special this year. Full details will be sent with the August Bulletin and they will be shown on our website.

Again this year we will be organising a **Prize Draw** which, unashamedly, is a fund raising event. It will be drawn at the Awards Lunch and tickets will be sent out with the August Bulletin. We are looking to make this a very special Prize Draw and donations of prizes will be much appreciated. If any of you are associated with a commercial organisation that may be willing to sponsor a prize please let me know.

And now to some news affecting the administration of the Trust. I am in the process of selling my house in Machrihanish (from where the Trust is administered) in order to begin a new life in Edinburgh. At their meeting on 7th April the Trustees agreed that, rather than operate the Trust from my house, a small office would be rented in Edinburgh at one of the many business centres that are in the city. The Trustees also agreed that an **Administrator** would be recruited to learn how the Trust is managed and to carry out the day to day administrative processes in connection with membership and the Therapet Service. This will be a part-time and paid position. We envisage five mornings a week. Our ideal applicant will be someone who has good communicative, administrative and computer skills who has an interest in dogs. Even more ideal would be one of our Therapet volunteers in Edinburgh. Please let me know if you would like to be considered. I will revert to my original role of Honorary Secretary & Treasurer but with responsibility for the office and staff.

The August Bulletin will include news and stories about the **THERAPET SERVICE** and the **THERAPETS** themselves. Please send me news of your Therapet visiting and the exploits of your Therapets in good time.

Sadly I have to record the death of a number of Therapets:-

Margaret Carnegie's Golden Retriever "**CASSIE**"
Clare Devlin's Labrador "**CHESTER**"
Eleanor Redmond's Russian Black Terrier "**DESNA**"
Marion Drysdale's Greyhound "**FINN**"
Fiona Hamilton's Boxer "**JAGO**"
Jean Halley's Toy Poodle "**MADDIE**"
Anne Macdonald's Springer Spaniel "**POPPY**"
Jacqui & Stuart Guest's Westie "**RORY**"
Mary Innes' Irish Red Steer "**ROSIE**"
Clare Dymond's Border Terrier "**TOMMY**"
Julie Campbell's Rottweiler "**XSARA**"

Our sympathies go out to all of you who have lost never to be forgotten dogs. I hope that I have not missed anyone but if I have please let me know.

As you will see from the Annual Report, 2012 saw a dramatic increase in the number of new Therapets registered. The trend is continuing into 2013. At the same time demands for the Therapet Service are increasing from all directions. As I write a completely new aspect to the service is commencing at Edinburgh University. This involves students attending sessions with Therapets to help them relax during the stressful examination time. I will be able to include a detailed report in the August Bulletin but already it is having a knock on effect in that other universities have approached us with a view to setting up similar sessions for their students. As you can imagine the media is very interested!

Finally if you are attending **SCOTTISH KENNEL CLUB's** Championship Shows in May and August at Ingliston please call in to the CCST Tent where Trustee **JAMES MACDONALD** and his helpers will be pleased to see you.

With best wishes for what hopefully will prove to be a warm summer

Yours sincerely

Nick Henley Price