



**NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2015**

[www.friendsofbcdh.org](http://www.friendsofbcdh.org)





Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Trustees and myself can I thank you all for your patience and understanding while we have been implementing our new Membership System. I am pleased to report that we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and we should be up and fully running before too long.

As mentioned in my last report we are re-launching the '1000 Club' and have enclosed TWO forms in this newsletter explaining how it works and hoping that you will participate and perhaps persuade a friend to do the same. For just £12 per year it gives you 12 opportunities to win the prize, surely worth a punt.

Unfortunately we have yet to fill the position of Secretary to the Trustees since Fay Swaffham stepped down last year. At present Judith Burgess, our Membership secretary, is standing in but it does put additional pressure on her workload. We would be delighted to hear from any member interested in applying for the position - see item towards the end of the newsletter for further details.

We have a number of initiatives in hand to increase our Membership level and are working on manning a membership recruitment stall at various locations in and around Bath. We are also looking into producing a Legacy leaflet to hopefully increase our income as we are still dependant on bequests to undertake the level of support we give to the 'Home'.

Fundraising activity is well in hand and we have recently held a Jumble Sale on 11th April. Our next event, which will be a Garden Party, is scheduled for June.

Thank you all for your continued support.

*Robin Eastman, Chairman of Trustees.*

## Annual General Meeting 2015

Please find enclosed your invitation to the Friends AGM 2015 which will be held at the Home on Wednesday 24th June at 7pm, with refreshments from 6.30pm. We do hope you will be able to attend as this is an opportunity for you to have your voice heard, make suggestions and to raise issues.

It is also your opportunity to elect the Friends' Trustees for 2015/16. Are you at all interested in standing as a committee member? If so, and providing you are over eighteen years of age, we would be delighted to hear from you and would ask you to contact our Chairman, Robin Eastman at [friends@bathcatsanddogshome.co.uk](mailto:friends@bathcatsanddogshome.co.uk).

Alternatively, you can write to Robin at the Home. Please do so before the end of May 2015.

As you know, we are always keen to welcome new committee members who might like to contribute their particular skills and interests to help us in our fund-raising efforts for the Home.

As a committee member, you would join a small, friendly group of Trustees, all driven by a desire to make a difference in animals' lives and would be willing to give up a couple of hours once a month on a Wednesday evening to attend our meetings. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Farewell Jack

You may remember Jack who graced the cover of the Friends Newsletter in November 2012. Sadly we recently had to say farewell to our much loved lad at the age of 12.5 years.

Jack became part of our family by chance when we agreed to foster him on a temporary basis which inevitably became permanent. He was a Scottish Terrier Cross and certainly had some of the breed's characteristics – stubborn, slightly aloof and not overly friendly to strangers (unless of course they had pocketfuls of treats!) yet given their independent personality very attached to their family which makes losing him all the harder.

We were lucky to have three happy but never dull years with him. We have many happy memories of our annual holiday in North Devon with Lynda and Lesley Ann (Friends committee members) and Lesley Ann's dogs Shumba, Lucky and Danny. Even though he was the senior member of the pack we can still picture him striding ahead, nose to the ground, leading the way.

It is amazing how much joy a rescue dog can bring into your life and Jack has certainly left his mark in our lives.

Barbara Forder



*Lynda with Jack*

## FUN DAY - 2015

This year's Fun Day will be held at the Home on MONDAY 31st AUGUST to make the most of the Bank Holiday weekend.

There will be the usual fun for all the family with dog shows, displays, refreshments and entertainment. The Friends will be there so please come and say hello!



## Just a Minute

Do we have your current email address?

In order to streamline and update our database and to make sure that you receive news of all our activities it would help us greatly if we had your current email details; it will take just one minute of your time. We will, of course, respect your privacy and will not pass this information to any third parties.

Please send to :- [membership.friendsbcdh@gmail.com](mailto:membership.friendsbcdh@gmail.com)

# Join the Club

## The Friends of Bath Cats and Dogs Home

invite you to participate in the Friends 1000 club which will commence at the beginning of July 2015.



### ***What is it?***

The 1000 club is a mechanism by which members pay £1 per month, paid annually at the start of the scheme, i.e. £12 per year, which allows them to support the Friends as well as having an opportunity to receive a cash prize from a monthly draw.

### ***How does it work?***

Each member of the 1000 club pays their £1 per month into the scheme, 50 pence of which goes directly to the Friends to help them in supporting the Bath Cats and Dogs Home. The other 50 pence is entered into a monthly draw and the winner receives the 'pot' made up of all the 50 pences paid by the other members of the club.

For example, if there are 100 members then the monthly prize would be £50: if we have 500 members then the prize would be £250 per month; and so on, depending on the number of members.

### ***How do I join?***

Joining is easy, just send your name, address, telephone number and, if you have one, your email address, together with a cheque for £12 to the **Friends of Bath Cats and Dogs Home, The Avenue, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7YP**, marking the envelope '1000 Club'. Your number will be put in the monthly draw each and every month, so you will have 12 opportunities to win.

Why not invite your friends and neighbours to join as well. The more members there are the more support we can give to the Animals and the larger the monthly prize. Members of the 1000 club do not need to be members of the Friends but, of course, it would be nice if they would also join.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*for official use only*

*cheque for £12 enclosed please tick*

To receive a copy of your number by post please enclose a s.a.e.

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Our family lost our beloved Molly in April, who left a very large gap in our lives. We knew we wanted another little dog, but we needed the right one – Benji especially needed a friend as without Molly he had gone very quiet and withdrawn.

It was by chance that one day in September Lynda Pearce approached my daughter (Kirsty) at work, and happened to say casually 'I don't suppose you want a dog do you?', as a joke. I think Lynda was slightly taken back for a moment when Kirsty said, "Oh, we are looking actually!". It was this simple exchange of words that was to change our lives.

We were told about a very nervous and scared miniature poodle called Bunty that had suffered a very bad past. She was very shy, running away from everyone when approached, and also wasn't eating that well. We discussed it as a family, and instantly knew this was the dog we had been waiting for.



Bunty arrived in October, an absolute quivering wreck and we thought it was going to take a very long time for her to settle in. We decided to call her Millie – new home, new start, new name. Millie didn't know what toys were, she didn't want to come near us unless we sat still.

Just weeks later the change was amazing, every day she seemed to pick up something new! Now she actually comes running at you for attention. The sofa is a big part of her life – she tends to lounge most of the day until it's time to play or walkies. She adores to cuddle up to you, and is a complete and utter lap dog! Toys are the best thing ever invented, she thoroughly enjoys flinging them up in to the air. Oh, and as for being a picky eater..... everything in sight now goes!

Our old boy Toby took everything in his stride and is happy with the arrangement, she tends to walk right by his side when out and about. Millie was the best tonic Benji needed – they are never found far from each other! We have nicknamed them double trouble.....

We recently brought Millie a new ID tag with a rainbow on it – because that what she is to us. She picked up us from our darkest hour and lifted our lives with sunshine and colour. We really couldn't be without her now.

The **cover photograph** is of the gorgeous **Mouse** who, at the time of printing, was still at Bath Cats & Dogs Home, hoping to find her forever home.

Some of the current guests at Bath Cats & Dogs Home.....



It's amazing what the word 'Yes' can lead to. There are so many fascinating events that can follow from saying 'Yes'. In our case, after we said 'Yes' to the wonderful Joan Henry, then kitten foster co-ordinator at the Home, we had years of floors covered in kitten food and cat litter, a return to the night feeds we thought were long behind us, some heartbreak and lots and lots of laughter.

Kittens came in large litters and alone, with their mum and without, just about ready to face the world or newborn, so friendly we had to check our pockets before leaving the room, or hissy-spitty and terrified. Most litters came to us healthy and friendly and just needed worming and flea treatment, weaning or feeding up and socialising ready to go to their new homes. Inevitably, the ones that really stick in the mind were those where things were a little more challenging.



The kittens that we will always remember arrived at the Home just as we were due for a break after a succession of high-maintenance litters. However, when the call came we could not possibly refuse. Twenty four kittens had been brought into the Home by an RSPCA Inspector. They were all sick, dreadfully underweight and covered in their own filth. There was a mixture of ages but they were all so thin it was hard to tell how old they were. They were part of a prosecution case, so in addition to working with the vets to save their lives we, along with the other three foster carers, had to weigh them and photograph them at regular intervals.

The staff at the Home have the enjoyable task of naming strays that come in. Celebrities, pop stars and TV personalities are a popular source of names, but with 24 this would be a bit tricky. The dilemma was solved by naming them after flowers and herbs, so we had Rosemary and Tarragon, amongst others! Ginger Rosemary has appeared in many of the Home's publications.

Several times a kitten deteriorated and had to stay at the vet's. The vet always had another of the 24 from a different fosterer ready to go back, so we were never sure which kitten would come home with us! Joan did a brilliant job of keeping track and always knew who had which kittens. I am proud to say that with intensive care from all four fosterers every one survived and developed into a beautiful, healthy kitten. We felt even more 'parental' about these kittens than we usually did, and all the potential adopters were thoroughly grilled when they came to see the kittens. Thankfully,



we were very happy with everyone sent along by the Home. When all the fosterers gathered at the Home with the kittens for their final check the Inspector was there to photograph them, and was thrilled with their progress. Several of the adopters were kind enough to let us know how their extra-special kitten was settling in, and all were happy, healthy and a delight to their new family. Rescued from a life of neglect, sickness and starvation - just what the Home is all about.



## Vacancy for Secretary

The Secretary plays a vital role in the smooth running of this small organisation. The committee of Trustees meets on alternate months, with the Fundraising committee meeting on the months in between. The Secretary organises the meetings, produces the agendas and minutes, keeps records for the Charity Commissioners, facilitates communication with the Cats and Dogs Home and arranges the AGM.

The Friends need a Secretary who is good at organisation, communication and accurate record keeping and is happy to work electronically. Shorthand might be an advantage. The Secretary needs to be able to attend monthly meetings on Wednesday evenings at the Cats and Dogs Home

Although the Friends have an office at the Cats and Dogs Home, it would be an advantage if the Secretary could work from home. Access to email and the internet is essential

## Do you need to update your Standing Order?

The Friends value every subscription and donation, because they enable us to continue our vital work of helping the Home to rescue and rehome the thousands of animals that pass through its doors each year. The current membership subscription is £12 a year. Our new membership computer system has shown that there are quite a few members who are paying less than this by annual Standing Order (not to be confused with Direct Debit). It may be that when the subscription was last raised these Standing Orders were not increased to the new level. We cannot change the amount your bank sends us; any change to a Standing Order has to come from the person making the payment.

If you pay by Standing Order please would you check that you are paying the correct amount? If you need any help with this please do not hesitate to contact Judith Burgess, our Membership Secretary, by letter or email on [membership.friendsbcdh@gmail.co.uk](mailto:membership.friendsbcdh@gmail.co.uk). **Thank you.**

## Forthcoming Events

### GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 7th June 2015, 12noon - 4pm

Cream teas. Home-made cakes. Strawberries and cream.

Raffle. Garden paraphernalia. Plants. Small selection of books for summer reading.



## Contact details:

### Friends of Bath Cats & Dogs Home

The Avenue  
Claverton Down  
Bath BA2 7AZ

[www.friendsofbcdh.org](http://www.friendsofbcdh.org)

[friends@bathcatsanddogshome.co.uk](mailto:friends@bathcatsanddogshome.co.uk)

**Chairman:**

**Robin Eastman**  
[theeastmans139@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:theeastmans139@tiscali.co.uk)

**Vice Chairman:**

**Nick Burgess**  
[moggymanor@talktalk.net](mailto:moggymanor@talktalk.net)

**Secretary:**

**To be appointed**

**Treasurer:**

**Cary Bush**  
[cary@carybush.co.uk](mailto:cary@carybush.co.uk)