



# Newsletter

Winter 2015



Registered Charity No: 284424

Friends of Bath Cats & Dogs Home, The Avenue, Claverton Down BA2 7AZ

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

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## Chairman's Report

Dear Friends,

This report starts with some very sad news as I have to inform you that our longest serving Trustee, Mr. Geoff Fuller passed away in late September following a long illness. Many of you will have known Geoff and his late wife over many years as staunch supporters of the *Friends*.

Geoff was renowned as the 'go to person' whenever anyone needed historical information about the *Friends* and will be greatly missed.

On a happier note we have at last found a volunteer to be our Secretary, Sammy Humphries, and she will start with immediate effect. We are delighted to welcome her aboard.

Since our last Newsletter we have held a Summer Garden Party which went very well and we also had a presence at the Fun Day event where we made a reasonable profit. Our next event will be the Christmas Coffee Morning in late November where we hope to see as many of you as can make it.

Work is continuing on the Legacy Leaflet and we hope soon to be able to put it in front of a solicitor for approval on its legality. We have also implemented an investment policy which we will use to maximize the interest we can accrue on donations and legacies.

The 1000 Club, launched mid-year, attracted 67 members and the first three winners have received their prize money. It is to be hoped that next year we can get more members to join the scheme.

Finally, as Chairman, I would like to tell members that the *Friends* never divulge any personal details to any third party so you can all be assured that any information you give us will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please see our 'Fundraising Statement'.

### **Robin Eastman (Chairman of Trustees)**



### **Fundraising Statement**

Recently there has been a lot of concern raised about the fundraising methods used by charities. The *Friends* of BCDH does not:

- Give or sell our membership information to anyone outside our own charity
- Buy in membership lists from other charities or organisations
- Use external agencies or companies to contact people in order to raise funds for us
- Expect people to pay more than the current membership subscription (£12 at present)

We welcome additional donations, bequests in wills, contributions at our fundraising events and the purchase of raffle tickets at such events. However, all additional donations are strictly at the discretion of the donor.

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**Front cover** *Scrappy*, a two-year-old Yorkshire Terrier, is another success story for BCDH as he has just been adopted and will be soon settling into his new forever home. Small in size but with bags of personality, *Scrappy* is affectionate, energetic and playful and loves nothing more than to play with his tennis balls and raggy toys. If you are looking for a companion animal, please remember that BCDH has many more dogs just like *Scrappy* that are in need of a home.

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## Geoff Fuller 1929–2015

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Geoff Fuller who died in September 2015. In a long career, Geoff was a chartered naval architect and was also a former Director of British Maritime Technology and sometime Chairman of VSEL (Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd) at Barrow in Furness.

We remember him, however, for his great love of animals and for his invaluable contribution to the work of the *Friends* and BCDH. Geoff, along with his late wife Pam, was involved with BCDH from the 1970s: he was also a founding member of the *Friends* and our Chairman from 2001 to 2006. It was typical of Geoff's commitment to the work of the *Friends* that he was still taking an active part in our committee meetings and offering sage advice until a few months before his death.

Geoff was an energetic fundraiser and was one of the main organizers of the hugely successful Christmas Bazaar that used to be held at the Pavilion in Bath in the 1980s. He also ran an impressive Tombola stall for the *Friends*, generously financing the substantial prizes himself. More importantly, Geoff was heavily involved in the redevelopment of the Home which took place around the year 2000. Even before he was Chairman, he was instrumental in discussions that took place with the chosen architects



and in agreeing building plans as well as securing a contractor to carry out the work. Geoff, therefore, played a key role in the fundraising for, and the creation of, the Home that we see today with its smart reception centre and parasol kennels. Although this was a tremendous achievement and the result of hours of dedicated fundraising and committee meetings, Geoff was characteristically modest about his role in bringing the new-look BCDH into being.

Geoff will be sadly missed by all who knew him at the *Friends* and BCDH. A kind and generous gentleman, he was humble and often self-effacing about the immense contribution he made to the work of the *Friends* and BCDH. The Fuller Cattery, the main building of the new cattery, has been named after Geoff and his late wife Pam. It is, we think, a fitting tribute to a family man who had a special fondness for cats and who gave so much of his life to the *Friends* and BCDH.

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## What a Pickle!



*Friends* Trustee Louise Atkins writes a heart-warming story about Pickle, an eight-year-old 'tortie' girl cat adopted from BCDH on Valentine's weekend in February 2015, by her twin brother Tim.

Pickle had been a very quiet and unhappy cat in the cattery, having had several teeth removed during her stay at BCDH. She was grumpy with her carers, but as soon as Tim picked her up out of the pod, she stayed in his arms for a cuddle. She was chatty in the car on the way to her new forever home, but as her name might suggest, she quickly showed she was a 'pickle' as she spent the first 24 hours hiding behind the kitchen units! After slowly being coaxed out, this shy nervous cat soon began to settle and became very attached to my brother, purring as she lay on his chest,

sleeping on his bed and generally ruling his house.

Pickle loves food and when dishing up her meal she helps by chatting and head bopping your legs as encouragement to serve it quicker. Although she refuses to go outside and runs away from the open patio door, she has become a very happy house-cat, who has put on weight and now has pretty soft fur and very bright twinkly eyes.

My brother went on holiday for a week recently and I moved into his house to look after Pickle. She is very sweet and liked waking me each morning with big purrs for cuddles in bed. She is clever, funny and made me laugh each day especially when she played with her favourite toy; a fishing rod with a squeaky mouse attached to it. She also enjoys perching on the arm of the sofa to watch her favourite programmes on tv – in particular, tv adverts and any programmes featuring animals!

As you can see from the photo, Pickle was tired out from all the fun we had and all the attention I gave her during my week's stay. Needless to add, I am encouraging Tim to go away again soon, just so that I can look forward cat-sitting cute Pickle again!

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## 1000 Club Winners

Many thanks to those of you who joined the 1000 Club at the end of July. Participants pay £12 a year and are then entered into 12 monthly draws.

If you missed out on the opportunity to join in the fun, not to worry, the 1000 Club will be running again from next July. We will remind you nearer the time

of how to participate and hopefully you will become one of our lucky winners.

The winners of the monthly cash prize so far this year are:

August draw	Ms L Joyce
September draw	Ms J Earnshaw
October draw	Ms A Hallam

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## Jan Clare – Photographer to the Home

Many of you will know me I hope? I used to work for BCDH originally as a telephonist and then as the website controller for nearly fifteen years until I retired some five years ago. As part of my job I used to photograph anything that moved; in fact anything from the animals to buildings to the goings-on at events.

On my retirement I offered my services to the Home to return each week and photograph the animals. In my eyes it has to be one of the best voluntary jobs that a person could do! I get to meet all the new animals – a bit up close and personal sometimes! They go from the tiny kittens and puppies – so cute; to the older (I'm no longer wanted) in some cases – which to me are so appealing; to the ill or three-legged, or one-eyed sweethearts.

Photographing animals is not only my hobby but a great way of volunteering

my help to BCDH. I always try and get the best look from the dogs/cats/small animals as I think a great photo will help sell the animal to prospective adoptees. A cute tilt of the head from a dog to an upside down 'look at me' cat pose makes me smile and I hope makes other people think the same and want to adopt. Of course the use of squeaky toys, strange noises and treats is a must!



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## The Friends Summer Garden Party

For its summer event this year, the *Friends* organized a garden party which took place at the Home on Sunday 7th June. We had lots of plants for sale as well as plenty of garden-related items –



everything from gardening books or light summer reading books, to pots, watering cans, trowels and trugs. The real star of the day was the weather as we had sunshine all afternoon which meant that visitors could enjoy our many cakes, strawberries and cream and cups of tea al fresco. Once again, our many thanks to our cake-makers for creating such irresistible fayre. There is nothing quite like tea and cake on a sunny afternoon especially when there is the added attraction of a bargain or two!! Thanks to all those who donated items, baked cakes and came to support us on the day, the Summer Garden Party raised a very welcome £1000 for the *Friends*.

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## Trustee Dennis Long updates Millie's story

You may remember reading about Millie in the May 2015 newsletter, and so now I just wanted to share with you how far little Millie has come. We have had to adapt our household slightly – it appears that anything left on the floor actually belongs to Millie, so we have found clothes and items in different places all over the house that she had taken away to play with! Millie is an absolute bed bug, and really doesn't do mornings – it's all you can do to make her open her eyes before 11am!

Over the summer we decided to introduce her to agility and although shy

*Millie (centre) with her pals Benji and Toby.*



at first, after watching our two boys do it she decided it was fun enough to join in – especially when she realised treats were involved.

Millie adores Benji, and they are still always found together – usually causing mayhem somewhere! Toby takes it all in his stride, and although Millie and Benji don't like to admit it, Toby is in charge – he gives them both confidence to cope with everyday things when out walking.

We recently fostered three kittens that needed help, and Millie took it upon herself to mother them – letting them play with her, whilst she tried to lick them.

Millie is a completely different dog compared to the little shivering wreck that arrived on our doorstep a year ago now. She continues to bring us joy, fun and laughter and every day is different.

I urge everyone to give a home to a rescue dog, they are so rewarding to watch blossom – and Millie is a true example of what just a little bit of love can do.

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## Meet Sammy Humphries – our new Hon. Secretary

We are delighted to welcome Sammy Humphries who answered our call and joined the *Friends'* Committee as Honorary Secretary this October. She will be organizing our meetings, producing agendas and minutes and will keep records for the Charity Commissioners. Sammy is a true Bathonian, having been born in Bath and having spent most of her life in the city. She now lives in Batheaston. For many years she worked for local independent professional firms as a PA or secretary and presently works part-time for a surveyor. This might explain why she is such a dab hand at shorthand and will have no trouble keeping up with our sometimes animated exchanges during our monthly committee meetings.



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## Fun Day 2015



Unlike the glorious weather we had for the *Friends'* Summer Garden Party, the Fun Day which was held on Bank Holiday Monday (31st August) turned out to be rather wet and miserable although it did clear up a little after lunch. Well, at least all the plants on the *Friends'* plant stall were well watered!! There has to be a joke about it raining cats and dogs all day but I will leave that to you.

In contrast to all the mud and dark, cold skies, the *Friends'* tent looked bright and sunshiny thanks to our lovely new and eye-catching yellow banners and display units. Thank you to the many *Friends* who turned out, completely undeterred by the inclement weather, to support us on the day. In particular, our thanks to those who renewed their membership, or became first-time members. Our thanks too, to those who baked our gorgeous cakes and to Sonja and Jean for their delicious jams. We ran out of cakes on the day and could have sold as many

again so thank you once again for baking such tempting cakes. And please don't hang up your wooden spoons just yet – we would be so grateful if you would continue to support us in this way at next year's Fun Day.

A new and very successful addition to our fundraising efforts this year was Vice Chairman Nick Burgess's bottle stall. Nick collected together 156 empty screw-top wine bottles which were then cunningly disguised in newspaper. Twelve of the bottles contained wine while all the rest were filled with water. You paid your money and you took your chance on winning a nice bottle of wine. Nick had a clean sweep and sold all the bottles. Interestingly, the very first customer won a bottle of wine and another lucky customer won two bottles in a row. How Nick managed to empty the 144 bottles of wine which were to be filled with water is a secret shared only with members of the *Friends'* committee and his wine merchant!!



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## Donate your old DVDS and CDs

Please help the *Friends* raise funds by donating your unwanted CDs and DVDs. When we have collected enough we can sell them online and earn much needed cash for the Home. The drop-off point is the basket outside the *Friends* office at the Home. Thanks!

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## **Forthcoming Event – Sunday 22nd November 2015 – The Christmas Coffee Morning**

For its Christmas fund-raising event, the *Friends* invite you to a Christmas Coffee Morning to be held at the Home on Sunday 22nd November between 11am and 3pm. Please remember that parking is free at Bath University on Sundays

We hope you will come and join us for tea and coffee and you will be tempted by our Christmassy cakes and savouries which will also be on sale. There will also be a selection of items to buy which we think would make good Christmas presents. If you would like to donate any new and unused goods for our stall, please bring them to the Home and leave them in the basket outside the *Friends'* office. Thank you.

You will also be able to buy raffle tickets on the day and we have a range of really super prizes for you to win which include

- Two passes for a one-day visit to The Spa at the Macdonald Bath Spa Hotel
- Afternoon tea for two at the Royal Crescent Hotel and Spa
- 18 holes of golf for four people at Cumberwell Park
- Afternoon tea for two at the Manor House, Castle Combe
- Afternoon Tea for two at the Francis Hotel, Bath

Please come and support us – we look forward to seeing you there. As in previous years, Santa, who will also be running a bottle stall, will be on hand to receive your gifts of food for the animals.

## **Contact Details**

**Friends of BCDH**  
**The Avenue**  
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**Chairman** Robin Eastman  
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**Vice Chairman** Nick Burgess  
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**Membership Secretary** Judith Burgess  
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**Treasurer** Cary Bush  
[cary@carybush.co.uk](mailto:cary@carybush.co.uk)

## **Trustees**

Robin Eastman (Chairman)  
Nick Burgess (Vice Chairman)  
Cary Bush (Treasurer)  
Sammy Humphreys (Secretary, Co-opted)  
Louise Atkins  
Claire Crew  
Katrina Hurley  
Leslyanne Kendrick  
Dennis Long  
Suzanna Mead  
Lynda Pearce  
Barbara White



If you have any news items or interesting stories for our newsletter please contact Barbara White at:  
[friends@bathcatsanddogshome.co.uk](mailto:friends@bathcatsanddogshome.co.uk)

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