



NEWSLETTER

November 2016

www.friendsofbcdh.org



Registered Charity No: 284424

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

Chairman's Report

Dear *Friends*,

With winter fast approaching and daylight hours getting ever shorter, our attention focuses on what has been achieved during the year and how it matches up to what had been planned in the previous spring. Did we do all that we wanted to, could we have done more, should we have approached things differently in order to maximise our effort and output, are we happy with the outcome of our labours?

The Trustees of the *Friends* are no different in this respect and are constantly looking at ways to improve their performance, entice more of the public to support their events and, of course, raise more funds. I am pleased to report that our efforts at *BCDH's* Fun Day was positive. Sales were steady throughout the day in the *Friends* tent with the largest return being made on the sale of home-made cakes. Our many thanks to all those who baked their hearts out for us. The bottle stall, jam, jewellery and plants tables all made significant contributions to the day. In all, we raised over £600.

Animal lovers like ourselves also look to the onset of winter with some trepidation knowing the difficulties that wildlife has to face during this period. This reminds us of the plight of abandoned animals that, for whatever reason, also find themselves in need of help and protection. In this regard we can help by continuing to support animal rescue organisations that, at this time of year, face increased costs for food and heating in order to look after the animals in their care.

On behalf of the Trustees and myself. I would like to thank you all for your continued support – we could not exist without you.

Robin Eastman

Front cover Gizmo is a cute two-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross who is looking for a quiet forever home.

A Date For Your Diary

**Sunday 27 November
2016 – 11am–3pm**

The *Friends* will hold a Christmas Fair with delicious cakes and pastries for sale, as well as an opportunity to pick up some Christmas gifts. Please remember that parking is free at the University on Sundays. As usual, Santa will be on hand to receive your gifts of food for the animals. There will also be some super raffle prizes thanks to our generous sponsors, including:

- Cream Tea for two at Beechfield House
- 18 holes of golf for four at Cumberwell Park
- One month's gym membership at Fieldways Hotel and Health Club
- One night's dinner, bed and breakfast at Limpley Stoke Hotel
- A three-course meal for four at Limpley Stoke Hotel
- A round of golf for two at the Manor House Hotel, Castle Combe

Please come and support us and enjoy some festive fun!

Volunteering for the *Friends*

Hello, I'm Sarah Thomas and I started volunteering as a Cat Cuddler at *BCDH* in August 2014. I had just finished working in London and had a few months off before starting my new job in Bath. Visiting *BCDH* once a week was very relaxing and rewarding, and needless to add, I inevitably adopted a beautiful thirteen-year-old white cat named Coco.

Being in Bath full-time has completely changed my outlook on life. I won't go as far as saying volunteering was the catalyst (ha ha!), but it definitely had a lot to do with it. Just over a year ago I started my own small business with 'Forever Living Products' in the small pockets of time around my job. These are the aloe vera-based products which aren't tested on animals, and they include a range of items which can be used on our furry friends as well as us humans. As my business grew, time constraints meant that I could no longer continue my weekly cat cuddling visits. It was a difficult decision to make, but I knew that Coco was in need of my cuddles at home too.

At the *Friends'* 2015 Christmas Coffee Morning, I met Trustee Louise Atkins and we talked about how I could still help at *BCDH*. The *Friends* Committee invited me to have a stall at their afternoon tea event in March 2016 and then again at the Garden Party in June. Both events were very well received and I have been able to donate over £60 so far! I'm already looking forward to the Christmas Fair on Sunday 27th November. Please come along.

I have recently started doing pamper and prosecco evenings at peoples' houses, where they invite their friends



and I supply the products and prosecco. It's an informal evening of fun and laughter where you are introduced to the products without obligation or pressure. Xmas presents abound, and the best part is that 15% of orders will be donated to *BCDH*. If you are interested in hosting an evening, or just want to know more, please call me at 0777 161 5807 or email me at sarah_j_thomas@hotmail.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.



Colin's Story

Sarah Brooks, a former Trustee at *BCDH* for many years, is also a foster carer to some of the Home's numerous dogs in need of extra care. Sarah finds fostering hugely rewarding although the inevitable 'puppy attachment' makes it a real wrench when the time comes to return the puppy to the Home so that it can be offered for adoption. There is always the desire, says Sarah, to simply keep the puppy but that is not always practicable, as Sarah has learnt, when you have already given a home to several dogs that were only meant to be temporary residents!

The latest dog that Sarah and her family are fostering is Colin the Collie pup. When he was five and half weeks old, his farmer/breeder owner decided to have him put to sleep as he was suffering from carpal laxity syndrome of the left foreleg which meant he was worthless as a working dog. Fortunately for Colin, the vet in Wales thought his condition might resolve itself and asked for Colin to be given a chance should a place be found for him at a rescue centre. Lynda

Pearce's friend Gail took him on and then he came to *BCDH* via Lynda, once it had been agreed that Colin would be fostered by Sarah and her family.

Although Sarah has learnt to resist the temptation of adopting every foster dog that comes through her door, she readily admits that Colin has already stolen her family's heart and has unquestionably found himself his own forever home. Sarah jokes that the Home would categorise her as a 'failed fosterer' this time! But having Colin will not stop Sarah and her family from fostering again – if anything it will make life easier as Colin will have other dogs to play with and learn from. It is heartening to think that after such a poor start in life Colin has a loving home and such a happy ending.

If you think you might be interested in fostering, please see the *BCDH* website for advice on procedures. In our spring newsletter, we will have a Q&A interview with Sarah who will tell us more about her fostering experiences.



The newly arrived Colin at his foster home (left), and three months later on the beach at Pembroke. Colin is a much loved member of the family

Friends of Bath Cats & Dogs Home

1000 Club



An invitation to join the Friends of Bath Cats & Dogs Home's **1000 Club** to support the *Friends* and at the same time have an opportunity to receive a cash prize from the monthly draw. See overleaf for details 🐱

Join the Club



The Friends of Bath Cats & Dogs Home

invite you to participate in the *Friends* 1000 Club which will commence at the beginning of January 2017.

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 *BCDH*. 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 *BCDH*, 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.



Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

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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Just a Purrfect Day for Kat and Mouse



It's coming up to three years since we adopted our gorgeous bull lurcher, Mouse, from *BCDH*. It's hard to remember a time when she wasn't part of our lives, but at the same time, it feels like only yesterday that I collected her from Reception and walked her home!

Picked up as a stray in Wales, with a bad ear infection and in a very nervous, miserable state, Mouse has come on leaps and bounds since coming to live with us. She's brilliant with other dogs, and enjoys two long walks every day with her 'pack' of canine friends around our local field. She's also fantastic with people, and will quite happily trot up to strangers to do a classic lurcher lean on her legs and ask for a head scratch. Anyone who knew her in her early days when she'd run a mile and hide in the

Kat, Mouse and Hubby on their Wedding Day.

nearest bush at the sight of someone she didn't know, will appreciate just how far she's come in this respect!

Mouse comes everywhere with us, so when we got married last September, the reception was no exception. She stole the show in our wedding pictures (although right after they were taken, managed to disgrace herself by finding some fox poo to roll in!). She came on honeymoon with us to North Devon too, where she enjoyed her own mini pasty, and getting up some speed on the empty beaches!

A huge thank you to *BCDH* for bringing our beautiful girl into our lives. We couldn't be without her; she's truly found her forever home, where she'll be loved for the rest of her days.

Life with Fozzie the Rabbit

Kirsty Long, Behaviour Assessor at *BCDH* and daughter of *Friends*' Trustee Dennis, tells us about Fozzie, her very special rabbit who sadly died earlier this year.

All I wanted was a friend for my existing rabbit Florrie. When Florrie was six months old, I went to *BCDH* to try her with a five-month old rabbit. That didn't work as he was too full on for Florrie, so I asked if there were any others we could try – I was told yes, but you may not like him as he's only got sight in one eye.

Well, who can resist that? It made me want him a little bit more! He was a four-year-old Dutch rabbit called Paddy. The bond was instant: Florrie had picked her man. So Paddy came home! He seemed unsure of his surroundings at first, but



Inseparable Friends: Fozzie (on left) with Florrie.

I assumed he was just settling in. New home, new name – we called him Fozzie.

The following day, we let him have a run in the garden when, suddenly, he fell off a step. This set me thinking; usually rabbits are very tentative and look before they leap, so a visit to the vet was called for! We were right to take him as, after a series of in-depth tests, it turned out that Fozzie was completely blind – he could just make out some shadows.

I was worried that Fozzie might not have a quality of life – but he was set to prove me wrong! He soon learnt the layout of the garden and, with Florrie's help, how to run and play, as well as sunbathe. I had to make sure that Mum didn't change any of the garden ornaments around, so he didn't get confused!

Florrie and Fozzie were so close. I think the fact that Fozzie couldn't see made the bond even stronger. They were always together and in his old age, when Fozzie didn't want a run, Florrie wouldn't come out without him.

Life with Fozzie was so rewarding, and I am so thankful that he was part of mine and Florrie's life.

1000 Club Winners 2015–16

The lucky winners of the 1000 Club draw for 2015–16 are:

August 2015	L Joyce
September 2015	Jeanette Earnshaw
October 2015	Anita Hallam
November 2015	Judith Barclay
December 2015	R Wallace
January 2016	Kay Gerrett
February 2016	Gordon Hallam

March 2016

April 2016

May 2016

June 2016

July 2016

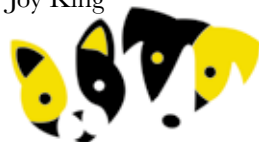
Alan Hunt

Andrea Price

David Cole

T Andrews

Joy King



Membership Matters

Good news: 32 people have joined the *Friends* so far in 2016. Welcome, all of you. Now the not-so-good news: we still need a lot more members.

The Trustees and Membership Secretary have been out and about this year, at Morrisons and at the bottom of Milsom Street in Bath and at *BCDH's* Fun Day. We spoke to a lot of lovely people, some of whom became members. If you are in the areas that receive either the *Local Look* or *Pukka* free magazines keep an eye open for our advertisements in the October to December issues.

With the proposal for an exciting new kennel block, the financial support that the *Friends* give to *BCDH* will be even more important. That means we need more members. We know from experience that the best way for the membership to grow is for existing members to tell their friends and family about the charity. The adverts will hopefully encourage people to talk about us, and to join us. As an added incentive, we are offering a voucher for a free drink and slice of cake to anyone who introduces someone who then joins the *Friends*. So if you enjoy our home-made



Judith prepares to welcome new members at the Fun Day.

cakes, tell people about the *Friends*! Why not give membership for a Christmas present? Contact the Membership Secretary for a special form.

Some of our members are no longer receiving the newsletters because they have moved house and not given us their new address. If you plan to move please put the *Friends* on your list of people to notify, so we can continue to keep in touch with you. We send newsletters by email where possible, so if you let us know your email address you won't need to worry about post going astray. The contact for all membership issues is: membership.friendsbcdh@gmail.com. Thank you!

Five Reasons Why a Dog is Better Than a Man

(With apologies to our male *Friends*.)

1. Dogs feel guilt when they've done something wrong
2. Dogs understand what 'no' means
3. You can house-train a dog
4. Middle-aged dogs don't feel the need to abandon you for a younger owner
5. Dogs admit it when they are lost.

(Perhaps one of our male *Friends* would like to respond with why a dog (or cat) is better than a woman!)

Treasurer's Report

Dear *Friends*

First, I would like to acknowledge the amount of work my fellow Trustees have undertaken during the year with a number of voluntary activities that raised funds for the *Friends*, all giving their time willingly and unpaid to help increase the funds available to the *Friends*.

The Trustees decided that it was important to have a written investment policy in place to dictate how the *Friends* invests its funds and how the income arising from these investments, as well as the monies raised from other voluntary activities, are distributed. An investment committee comprising myself, Robin Eastman and Nick Burgess was formed and it presented a proposal to the other Trustees that the *Friends* should develop a sustainable income flow that would benefit *BCDH* into the foreseeable future. The aim is to distribute a minimum of 90% of its income prior to any legacies received during the year and for the legacies to be used to grow and

build the investment portfolio to increase the amount of income available in the future. Hargreaves Lansdown has been appointed to manage these funds in line with our investment policy. Along with a focus on building the *Friends* membership base and continuing the voluntary activities, we believe this structuring will provide a sustainable stream of income for the *Friends* to provide grants to *BCDH* to support their activities.

Legacies continue to be a mainstay of our income, comprising 88% in 2015 and 82% in 2014. During the year we donated £97K to *BCDH*, which is 32% of our 2015 income (34% in 2014). To put it in perspective, this grant was 230% more than our regular income before taking into account legacies. Obviously, if we continue to grant more than our regular income and we fail to attract any further legacies, the *Friends* will ultimately cease to exist.

Cary Bush, Treasurer

Contact Details

**Friends of BCDH, The Avenue,
Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AZ**

www.friendsofbcdh.org

friends@bcdh.org.uk

Chairman Robin Eastman
theeastmans139@tiscali.co.uk

Vice Chairman Nick Burgess
moggymanor@talktalk.net

Treasurer Cary Bush
cary@carybush.co.uk

Secretary Sammy Humphries
sammyhumphries12@gmail.com

Trustees

Louise Atkins
Claire Crew
Katrina Hurley
Dennis Long
Lynda Pearce
Lesleyann Teague
Barbara White

If you have any news items or interesting stories for our newsletter, please contact Barbara White at: friends@bcdh.org.uk