



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

www.friendsofbcdh.org



Registered Charity No: 284424

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

Obituary - Roy Hulbert

Many of you will have known Roy Hulbert, who was a longstanding and devoted supporter of the 'Friends' and of Bath Cats and Dogs Home. Roy sadly died in November 2018 at the grand age of 93.

Roy lived in Fairfield Park, Bath, all his life. He was a true gentleman, quiet and reserved and very close to his parents, with whom he lived. He had many different jobs, including working at Milsom's, the record shop, in Bath, which no doubt helped with one of his great passions - old, authentic jazz. When he was younger he travelled to venues far and wide to see live jazz performances, and was a regular at Ronnie Scott's in London. He previously enjoyed the jazz at the Farmhouse pub on the corner of Camden Crescent and in recent years regularly attended the jazz nights at the Vaults Wine Bar on St James Street. Roy was on first name terms with many of the great jazz musicians - Ronnie Scott, Alan Barnes, Stan Tracey, Dave Newton to name but a few. His front room at home was dedicated to his vast collection of jazz records, photographs and programmes.

Roy was a great animal lover and supporter of Bath Cats & Dogs Home. He and his mum had a rescue dog called Pepsi. When he lost both his mum and Pepsi he adopted Archie from the Home. When Archie died Roy felt he was too old to adopt another dog so whilst his health still allowed he visited the Home every week to walk the dogs - he had three favourites - Scampie, Blake and Billy.



Roy was a familiar face at events run by the 'Friends' and the Home for well over 20 years. He also helped with street collections in Bath until his health prevented him from doing this. Roy looked forward to attending the AGM of both the Home and the 'Friends' - he never missed one - and would listen very attentively to the reports. It is not generally known, but Roy actually saved

the 'Friends' from having to abandon the AGM in 2017! Unfortunately, not enough members had attended to enable the AGM to go ahead, then Roy strolled in and made up the quorum. He never failed to attend an event or a meeting if he was able to do so. Roy will be very sadly missed by all at the 'Friends' and the Home.

Sue Forder

Front Cover: Sasha

Meet Sasha, a nine year old Bull Terrier cross who is now the longest stay resident at Bath Cats and Dogs Home. I have vivid memories of playing with an eight month old Sasha when she arrived at the Home and am still enjoying her company on walks several years later. Sasha is a real character, she knows her favourite walks, she loves agility, playtime in the paddock with her volunteer friends Jean and Rachel and lots of treats! Being an old hand Sasha has a lovely way of showing young dogs and puppies the ropes and helping to build their confidence whilst they are at the home. Hopefully that special forever home will come along one day for Sasha and until then it is a privilege to be her friend.

Lynda Pearce

For further information contact the Home on 01225 787321 or visit the website www.bathcatsanddogshome.org.uk

Chairman's Report

Dear Friends

Normally this section contains details of the success of the charity and events over the last year. On this occasion circumstances dictate that I make you aware of our current situation.

Many of you will recall that the 'Friends' were formed to be the fundraising arm of Bath Cats and Dogs Home. For many years we were very successful in raising funds for the running of the Home. Then the Home formed its own fundraising department and over a number of years has taken over some of the activities of our charity. Therefore, the 'Friends' have not needed to contribute to the running of the Home but have continued to assist with rebuilding costs. The events that the 'Friends' still run raise a minimal amount of money despite the hard work and dedication of the Trustees. Also, our membership numbers are falling; the number of animal charities has made it increasingly difficult to attract new members.

As a result of all these factors the current Trustees decided to have an in-depth look at the viability of the 'Friends'. After a great deal of discussion we agreed that the charity has fulfilled its original function, since the Home is now self-sufficient in terms of running costs, and the majority of the planned re-building work has been done. The bulk of the 'Friends' income is from legacies, rather than either membership or events run by the charity. The Trustees all felt that none of them wished to continue solely to oversee the distribution of legacies, and therefore decided not to seek re-election.

It is clear that if the 'Friends' is to continue, the charity will have to find new ways of raising money that the existing Trustees have not already exhausted. Now is unfortunately the time for a completely new approach, under new Trustees, or for a final farewell to the 'Friends'. At the AGM in July, if a minimum of 8 new Trustees cannot be found from our membership, the charity will have to be dissolved. Should this be the case, the current Trustees would be prepared to stay on to oversee an orderly dissolution of the charity in accordance with our constitution and the Charity Commission requirements. We will be taking appropriate legal advice in that case to ensure everything is carried out properly.

The decision, dear Friends, is in your hands, and I hope that you will attend the AGM on 17 July at the Home to have your say. At the AGM there will be a vote to elect new Trustees. However, if at least 8 new Trustees cannot be found, following the AGM we will hold a Special General Meeting, at which those present will be asked to vote on one resolution: to dissolve the charity. If you are not able to attend but wish to participate in the vote required for dissolution it will be necessary for you to fill in a Proxy Vote Form. If you require one please contact the membership secretary and we will send you one. Please note: the Proxy Vote Form will only apply to the Special General Meeting, if one is held, not the AGM.

It is with a heavy heart that this letter is written. On behalf of Executive Committee of Trustees, I would like to thank our members for your loyal support over the years.

**Robin Eastman - Chairman
May 2019**

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE FRIENDS: PLEASE READ THIS

FRIENDS OF BATH CATS & DOGS HOME
The Avenue, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AZ
Registered Charity 284424

Annual General Meeting & Election of Trustees and Potential Special General Meeting

The 'Friends' Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17 July 2019** in the John Hobhouse Room at the Home, at 7.00pm, with light refreshments served from 6.30pm. All are welcome.

According to the rules of the Constitution, all committee members (the Trustees) must retire from office at the end of the Annual General Meeting, but they may be re-elected or re-appointed.

This year, none of the current Trustees will be standing for re-election. This means that unless at least 8 new Trustees are elected at the AGM from within the membership, the charity will be dissolved and cease to exist. If this is the case, immediately following the AGM there will be a Special General Meeting to vote on dissolving the charity.

Any Friend who would like to stand for election should notify their interest to the Hon Secretary *before* the AGM. Please send your details, which should include your contact address, telephone and email, together with a brief CV, to the above address. Alternatively, email secretary@friendsofbcadh.org by not later than **26 June 2019**. On request, we will forward to you a copy of the Constitution, election procedures and details of the responsibilities of a Trustee.

Please note that you must be a fully paid-up Friend to stand for election as a Trustee. There are also personal conditions involving not having unspent criminal convictions or being bankrupt, according to the Charities Act 1972. If in doubt please look at these on the Charity Commission website: www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved. If you would like to check your membership status, please contact Judith Burgess, the Membership Secretary, on membership@friendsofbcadh.org.

**Sammy Humphries - Hon Secretary
May 2019**

Scaredy Dog to SuperDog

Roy trudged round the Bath Cats and Dogs Home, resolutely ignoring enthusiastic cries of "Over here Dad, this one would be perfect for you." Yes, of course he'd like another dog but Ron had been special - a hard act to follow. Suddenly he straightened, gaze fixed, then strode purposefully towards an enclosure.

Inside a stripey dog mirrored his movements. Their eyes locked and a smile crossed Roy's face whilst the dog, tail in top speed wiper mode, treated him to the full Lurcher grin and a crescendo of excited barks. "I'm having HIM!", Roy declared. The Animal Carer explained that Frankie suffered from Fear Aggression. Painful experiences had made him act tough to deter other dogs from attacking him. An experienced dog owner, Roy responded by investing in a muzzle and a long lead.

Training began. Little by little, determination, kindness and amazing patience overcame Frankie's fears until when, on a country path, his muzzle broke. As if on cue, two Pointers rounded the corner, paused, then raced forward. Roy braced himself against impending disaster, seeing feet pounding ever closer amidst a snowstorm of vet bills! But concern for welfare and wallet had misled him. The Pointers had lost Ron, their best mate, so Roy had kindly brought them another: time for an outsized welcome!

Scared and bewildered, Frankie attempted a growl but wagging tails and face licks



indicated new special friends; soon he was contributing joyful barks to the chaos. This was the turning point. As more friends arrived, the tranquil countryside became enlivened by a group of dashing dogs with a stripey Lurcher in their midst, out-barking all others.

But might conflict reignite Frankie's Fear Aggression? Confronted in woods by a pair of thugs, the canine version attacked Frankie, ripping off skin and flesh. The human thug ripped off

Roy, denying vet payment and scarpering, but then came the silver lining. Once revealed, Frankie's beautiful nature did withstand the challenge, proving that scaredy dog could become - and remain - SuperDog.

Fran Kent

Prior Park Garden Centre, 28 October 2018

We are grateful to Prior Park Garden Centre for allowing us to have a stand at their entrance, to talk to their customers. We were approached by quite a few people, who were interested in finding out more about the 'Friends', and one person joined us. Many more parted with their spare change! The Garden Centre staff looked after us very well, with offers of hot drinks (it was a sunny but cold day). Thank you Prior Park Garden Centre!

New Kennel Block

If you have been up at the Home in the last year, you may well have noticed a lot of activity behind the parasol kennels. A & B blocks have been demolished and a new kennel block has appeared in their place! This new block includes the much-needed accommodation for puppies as well as providing intake, assessment, isolation kennels and 6 kennels dedicated to the most vulnerable dogs. The need for these facilities had been identified by the Home and they approached the 'Friends' for help with the funding. We are delighted to say that we were able to help to the sum of £700,000.

A group of Trustees were given a guided tour of the partially-completed building last October by the main contractor, John Perkins Construction. We were kitted out with the necessary PPE (hard hats and high visibility jackets) and safely guided around the site. The steel frame was complete and the roof almost complete. It is always interesting touring a building during construction. The internal walls were just one block high so you see the layout. It was good to let the imagination run riot with the thought of loads of puppies rampaging in the playroom.

It is estimated that in the next 5 years, over 3,500 unwanted dogs and puppies will be housed in this new block of 35 kennels and the Puppy Unit whilst the staff at the Home work hard to find new suitable homes for them.



The accommodation comprises:

Intake and isolation kennels (17 kennels) -

This will provide a stress-free environment for the new arrivals as well as isolate any dogs with

infectious diseases preventing the risk of other animals becoming ill.

Extended assessment/rehabilitation kennels (12 kennels) - These kennels will house dogs that, after their first seven days, are not ready for the rehoming blocks, and those that need ongoing rehabilitation or training from the Behaviour team in order to prepare them for rehoming. Their kennels will be quiet and stress-free, therefore not exacerbating any of their existing problem behaviours or creating new ones.

Vulnerable dog kennels (6 kennels) - These kennels are for those dogs that have suffered cruelty and neglect. They will be quiet and cosy kennels where dogs can recuperate until they are ready to be rehomed.



Puppy unit (3 kennels and sleeping areas plus a puppy play room and run) -

A dedicated puppy unit will transform how the Home cares for puppies. There is space for Mum to be able to move away from the puppies as they start to grow up which is good for her and also essential for their development. There will be a puppy play room where the Home's team can spend precious time socialising and training puppies ready for rehoming. Puppies can relax together and learn through play how to interact with other dogs, a very important part of a puppy's development.

Assessment room - The Behaviour team will be able to assess dogs in a calm and quiet

environment, gaining a true picture of their behaviour giving the best chance possible of finding their perfect adopter and new home.

Isolation paddock and three enrichment paddocks -

These paddocks will provide a break away from kennel life. Each will have a different surface and added enrichment to keep dogs' minds occupied and provide them with a chance to relax outside of kennels. They will all be fully screened so dogs do not become stressed through seeing other dogs and strangers.



Also included are a grooming room, an isolation laundry, and a vet suite.

Several of the Trustees attended the official opening of the new kennels on 28 May. The block was named after the late Roy Hulbert. It was seen as a fitting memorial to a stalwart supporter' of the Home and the 'Friends'. We were treated to a guided tour. We were all impressed with the thought behind all aspects of the design and detail, such as mirrors at the corners of the paths to see if another dog is being led your way. There is a 'home' room with furniture and carpet to see how the dogs react when left alone - viewed though a one-way mirror. This new block is going to provide the Home with much needed accommodation to meet the demand for rescuing and rehoming dogs and puppies.

The 'Friends' are delighted to be able to play a part in providing some of the funds for this worthwhile project and look forward to it being

fully utilized. We wish the Home all success in transforming the lives and improving the prospect of a successful rehoming for all the dogs in their care.

Nick Burgess

(With thanks to Rachel Jones for providing the facts and figures on the new block)

Table Top sale, Saltford, 8 April and 14 October 2018

What a difference a [wet] day makes! The 'Friends' reserved tables at two 2018 sales - both Sunday, both Saltford, but whilst one flourished in spring sunshine, the other drowned in an autumn monsoon. The earlier event saw crowds buzzing with enthusiasm, brisk sales ensuing. 'Big ticket' items - rugs, brocade curtains etc, swiftly found buyers, whilst charity chat chinked collecting tins. Finally depleted stock was unexpectedly replenished: a fellow stall holder, off to Ireland, donated lingering items to what she had always regarded as a very good cause, ie us!

Laden with goods, rushing from car to venue through drenching deluges - such was the autumn experience. Initially only dejected sellers surrounded us, but once weather defying warriors strode in, our well stocked tables and Bath Cats and Dogs Home publicity proved attractive. One abiding memory concerns the man who, staring fixedly, announced 'I'm not in the least interested in animals!' Our reply, 'Let's treat this purely as a business transaction', enabled him to purchase with a clear conscience!

As valuable as fundraising, our presence and conversations raised awareness of the amazing projects undertaken by the Home in cherishing and successfully matching forsaken animals with forever owners.

Clothes Sale, 7 October 2018

I would like to thank you all for your help and generous donations of designer and vintage clothes to our clothes sale. We had a very good selection of old and new and if I may say so myself some lovely garments. We made £359.20. A good time was had by all.

Warm wishes and once again many thanks.

Christmas Event, 25 November 2018

Despite lower footfall on the day, the Christmas event was a successful day.

We have noted that attendance at our fundraising events has been dropping, despite all the work the Trustees put in, but thanks to the generosity of those who do attend we have continued to be able to add a useful sum to the 'Friends' coffers.

Dates For Your Diary for 2019

Events organised by Bath Cats and Dogs Home

Newfie Rescue Challenge - 22 June 2019 - Portishead Marina. Discover what it's like to be rescued "at sea" by a 70kg hero - a Newfoundland Rescue Dog. You will be suited up, taken out to the water by boat and then asked to jump in. But don't worry, it won't be long before the Newfoundland dogs show off their amazing water-rescue skills and tow you safely back to dry land. £30 registration fee. Pledge to raise £150 for rescue animals.

Fun Day - 26 August 2019 - BCDH's annual fun day provides a great day out with lots to see and do including demonstrations, a dog show, stalls and tasty refreshments.

Carol Concert - 8 December 2019 - Join us at Bath Cats and Dogs Home for our annual festive carol concert, with carols, mulled wine and delicious mince pies.

For further information contact racheljones@bcdh.org.uk

Contact Details

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