

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Holly Dyer

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

From the Trustees and Co-ordinators

of

SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE

(Registered Charity Number 1098769)

PO Box 112, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 3RB

GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 21

Our cover picture shows Holly Dyer who inspired her owners, Carl and Fiona and their daughter Rosalind to present a trophy in her memory. There is an article on this below.

We were lucky with the weather for the two Fun Days, and are, as always, grateful to the Southern Golden Retriever Society for part of the proceeds of the Kent one, and to Wendy Mercer and her band of helpers from Farlington Dog Training Club for once again holding their day for our funds.

This year has seen some changes. After giving many years of willing service both Barbara Taber and Gill Clark feel their circumstances no longer allow them to be Co-ordinators, but we have welcomed four new ones, namely Joan Coppin, Bronwen Martin Jenny Elsey and Wendy Penfold. We hope they enjoy working with us.

The end of the year will see the retirement of our Treasurer and Trustee, Robbie, who has served us in this capacity for so many years. We look forward to welcoming Lynn Windell in this position, and she has written an article about herself which also appears later.

Have a happy and safe Christmas, and remember to watch your dogs with the decorations!!

The Holly Trophy

This Trophy, which is awarded to the oldest Rescue dog attending the Kent Fun Day, has been kindly presented by Carl, Fiona and Rosalind Dyer in memory of their dog Holly, who was a regular attender there for several years. They say “Holly came to us aged 9, eight years ago. We had no idea we’d have her for seven more years. Last year was her last Fun Day, aged 16, and she was the oldest dog there. We worried the journey and the day might be too much for her, then she dragged us into the pub when we stopped for a meal on the way home! Before that, she was a great friend and companion to our first and third rescue dogs – Max and Bo, and a great matriarchal figure to the initially unruly puppy Riley. When Riley arrived, there was a 15 year age gap between them, but two firm woofs quickly established who was in charge. Holly finally succumbed, very quickly, to cancer. She was still vibrant less than a fortnight before we were told her condition was inoperable. She still has a special place in our hearts, always willing, always loving and always there: a canine shadow. We still miss her.”

In Memory of Sam

23rd May 2001 to 15th April 2013



The boy that changed our lives in 2001, he came to us at 22 months, with apparently no training or social skills. He was a good learner but to the end he had to be watched. Now gone to meet his brothers and sisters.

Missed by all – Rest in Peace

Bernard & Sheila King & Colin Cole

Farlington Fun Day



This picture shows some of the dogs and owners who took part in the Rescue Parade at the Fun Day organized by Wendy Mercer and her band of volunteers from Farlington Dog Training club who have been running this event for our funds for many years, and to date have raised the wonderful total of more than £7,200. We are extremely grateful for all their efforts. This year, as well as the scurry and various games and stalls Carole Carter and her helpers gave a short demonstration of gundog training, demonstrating steadiness, walking up and retrieving. This proved very interesting, particularly to those who had never seen gundog work before. Some of the dogs were very young so didn't always do as they were told, but this only served to demonstrate the amount of patience needed in training the dogs.

Holly Beagley

Our lovely GRR, Buster, had to be put down in October with heart trouble. He was huge with a lion's mane, much loved and sorely missed.



In February GRR phoned to ask if would take in a 9 year old female in need of urgent homing. Initially we refused – too old and we were used to males. But, feeling guilty, we phoned back to say “we would be happy to give the old lady a good home”! She arrived 2 days later, and we both fell in love with her! Poor thing had overgrown claws, and matted lumps of fur behind her ears, in her tail, and in her leg feathers, but she allowed us to trim and cut these. We made an appointment with our Vet, as she had had no injections for several years, and he also recommended that she be spayed, and a small cyst removed from her eye at the same time. This was done in April and she has recovered well with no further problems.

Right from the start, Holly “fitted in”. She loves her walks every day – a short walk after breakfast, and a longer walk after lunch. We are lucky enough to live in a village surrounded by lovely countryside with fields, woods and quiet lanes

Holly is a wonderful companion- she follows Bob around like a shadow, and when he is pottering in the garden, she lies nearby and watches while he digs, prunes and potters. To see her run down the garden she is more like a teen-ager than the “old lady” we thought she would be. In the evenings she comes to each of us for attention, and then stretches out in front of the log burner, perfectly content.

With daily grooming, her coat is smooth and shiny, and she is a very pretty lady!

We are so glad we phoned GRR that day in February, or we would never have met Holly! We love having her around, and I think she is enjoying her new life in the country.

Let Us Introduce Our New Friend

(This poem was written for Holly Shipton’s appearance at the Kent Fun Day by her neighbor Jim Obbard)



She joined us some three months ago, her name was simply Holly

Whilst seeming rather glum at first, she’s now become quite jolly

At first she was so quiet, you never heard her bark

She’s grown to enjoy the car rides, and loves it in the park

And then there’s fun with water, like splashing in the stream

She wasn’t very sure at first, but now she’s grown quite keen

She loves to get quite comfy, and spreads out on the mat

She’s now become quite friendly with “Charlie” our pet cat

There’s been a change in those few months, such fun to have around

From silent, scruffy, saddened “Holly” a happy pet we’ve found

Beema

May I follow the article in Issue No. 20 from Sally Hurst. Please do not accept any further letters from her as she breaks my heart. I have re-read her story many times and she, her family and her experiences break my heart each time that I read it, what an absolutely lovely lady she is.

My wife and I were privileged to have two Goldie's who both took over our lives from day one they were Ben and Bailey. Ben was born to please; he loved anyone and anything and was a wonderful mentor to Bailey from puppy-hood onwards. Time and old age took their toll and we lost them after a full and active life.

We then went 20 months without dogs, we became a bit lazy, exercise went down, and weight went up. We love dogs so much that we used to go to a remote café off Shooters Hill in Welling, Kent, used mainly by dog walkers. We sat outside with a coffee and interacted with dogs and owners as much as possible and by chance met a lady with several dogs in tow. We related the loss of our goldies to her and how much we still missed them, she then said that she knew Rachel who was involved with Southern Golden Retriever Rescue and would we like her to pass our details on to her.

Within a couple of weeks we had a call from Myra Copes who had been given our details by Rachel informing us that a Goldie was available and was presently being cared for by Sally Hurst. He was one of two goldies who had been overfed to the point of obesity; he had never been exercised off lead and would be a challenge as their home had been a shed come garage for almost two years. We could not get the details down quickly enough and the following Sunday off we went to visit Sally Hurst who was then caring for both dogs.



We rang the bell, the door opened, and we were encompassed and greeted by four goldies and a black Labrador. Sally and Myra who also attended welcomed us to the garden with coffee and that is how we met Beema and Portia. We heard the full story of their neglect, but Sally seemed to think that despite that, they had been loved

which made it a little easier to bear.

Both my wife and myself are going beyond our mid seventies and are reasonably fit, but how I wished that I was ten years younger that day so that we could have taken them both home with us. We thought that two would possibly be a bit too much. Both, although hugely overweight were beautiful, real specimens of the breed with such magnificent tails. Sally had taken them to be groomed and the matted coats had been dealt with although the unkempt smell was still very noticeable.

When we left Sally's Beema jumped into the estate and made himself at home straight away.

Beema has been with us now for 15 months and his progress has been fantastic, he now fluctuates between 39 to 41 kilos from the 54 kilos that he was originally. He now walks very well on lead, not the frenetic pulling of his early outings, his coat is beautiful and he now smells so sweet. His walks are nearly always off lead away from roads, his recall is about 95% and we continue to work on that.

On the 2nd. June we attended the Kent Golden Retriever Fun Day, what a delightful day that was, I have never seen so many goldies at one time, it was fabulous, and to top it all we entered Beema into the Rescue Dog of the Year parade and he managed to scoop 1st. prize. He has sailed through the Kennel Club Good Citizen Award, Bronze, so easily it was untrue and we will be enrolling him for his Silver when the weather starts to cool off.

Beema has never had any problem at all meeting and greeting all other dogs on his outings, he accepts all dog attention so well, he seems to calm over excited dogs and so far he has behaved superbly with every dog boarder he has encountered when we visit my daughter.

So much of his training is down to tips from my daughter Karen, who is a qualified A.P.D.T. dog trainer in Hertfordshire, she home boards dogs and teaches classes for adult dogs and puppies in her area.

Beema is now a really well adjusted dog with the usual goldie temperament and wonderful nature, we absolutely love him to bits and thanks in a big way to Myra, Rachel and especially to Sally for all that you are doing to give so many goldies a second chance of finding loving and caring owners, bless you all.



Shirley Murphy

Boston Bombings – Golden Retrievers “comfort dogs”

(reproduced with permission from an article written by Melvyn Philpott in “Dog World”

Horrific photographs and scenes were plastered across our television screens after the Boston bombings took place, which badly injured 264 people. However, one comforting picture that quickly caught my eye while surfing the internet was a photograph of a Golden Retriever comforting a victim who had had surgery on her shattered leg.

These Golden Retrievers were deployed from the Lutheran Church Charity who specialize in training these “comfort dogs” coping with stressful situations. This programme, which was started in 2008, now consists of around 67 dogs who are spread across the nation.

Many patients are responding greatly to the comfort of these dogs. One patient in particular is David Yopez, 15, who is recovering from surgery after being hit in the leg by shrapnel and according to www.today.com stated “It’s relaxing....takes my mind off of what happened”.

Tim Hetzner, president of this charity, told ABC news that “these dogs do not just put smiles on many people’s faces, they also help the victim tell the story of what happened and the dogs are great listeners.”

The comforting dogs – all Golden retrievers – have also connected with the hospital workers and medical personnel who are also suffering from the attacks. One medical personnel, Meghan Bennett, 25, said: “The dogs have helped me maintain perspective and made my stress levels go way down...I just love dogs and this creates a distraction from the reality and it’s great to see the beaming smiles on the patients’ faces when a dog walks in.”

As well as helping victims and hospital workers the Golden pack have also been wandering around the streets of Boston comforting random passers-by to try to bring a calm and peaceful atmosphere back to the city. The Goldens were also present at first Lutheran Church of Boston for the Memorial Service. This story really shows the wonderful nature of the breed.

Charity Treasurer

A warm welcome

Lynn Windell has been made a Trustee and will take over as Treasurer from January 2014.

I was born within the sound of Bow Bells, and moved to Chatham when I was only 3. We lived near the



Darland Banks, now a nature reserve, so by the age of seven we had our first family dog, Patch, a rescue mix of a breed, but very loving. Having a dog from such a young age must form a kind of imprinting, because as an adult I struggle immeasurably without a dog. Luckily these have only been for brief periods.

On leaving Chatham Grammar School for Girls at the age of sixteen, I found employment in a local firm of solicitors as a legal cashier. By the time I was twenty I was working in London continuing the path of book keeping and back office cashier.

After a break from work in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania working a season for Camp America then travelling, I continued to work in London and landed at WPP Group plc, working as a treasury assistant. While there I grew hungry for knowledge and after spending a few years studying the sciences, particularly Biology, at the Open University (in my spare time), I decided to redirect my education down

the road of my profession and commenced my studies with the ACT (Association of Corporate Treasurers), again in my spare time.

By 2000 I was qualified with the ACT and from then have worked professionally as a Corporate Treasurer for some large multinational firms. I am currently Assistant Treasurer for UBM plc - a billion pound turnover enterprise. As well as core treasury responsibilities, my duties at UBM involve lots of legal documentation and my enthusiasm for this component lead me to explore furthering my education again. I was accepted into the BPP Law School (distance learning) and last year received a Commendation for my Graduate Diploma in Law.

After experiencing firsthand the devastation of the Tsunami in Thailand in December 2004, I decided to invest some of my life in volunteer work. The first short project took me to Sumatra and involved Orangutans. This was where I met my husband. Another took us both to Costa Rica protecting local wildlife, mainly birds and turtles. I also did some pro bono work during my time at the Law School.

My long time furry friend and companion died a couple of years ago. Jovi was a rescue dog who lived to the ripe old age of 18. I had her 16 and a half years and I still miss her. I am very lucky however to have neighbours with many golden retrievers who kindly let me have my dog fix with them frequently. I am especially close to Boysie who takes me to agility class!

This brings me to conclude that I am immensely honored to be given this opportunity to be treasurer for SGRR. I am committed in continuing the outstanding work that Robbie has dedicated his time to, for many years to come.

A fond farewell

Anne Hodgson (Trustee & Chairman) writes



In 1977 the Southern Golden Retriever Society was formed with Robbie Robinson as founding Treasurer; in 1979 they formed a Rescue subcommittee and, luckily for us, Robbie was treasurer for this as well. A bad accident in the mid-1980s forced Robbie to take a brief break from these roles. He was soon back to give his time and many attributes including but not exclusively his financial skills to help Golden retrievers in need. Robbie has always contributed to the many facets of rescue but this really came to light when the SGRR charity was formed; he has provided the link between the charity trustees and the co-ordinators, I'm sure sometimes, though thankfully not often, finding himself the meat in the sandwich. Robbie gives advice, listens and takes on board all comments; he really is the true gentleman and a great ambassador for SGRR. We are all sorry to see Robbie retire though pleased that he has finally decided to take a well-earned rest. For my part I would like to thank Robbie for

making my life easier. He has kept well on top of the requirements of the Charity Commission and his knowledge of our Trust Deed and working practices has been so very helpful to the Trustees. A great diplomat to all and very tactful and patient with me, I shall really miss our 'working' relationship.

Typically he has taken a gradual retirement helping Lynn into her new role, until both have been happy that all is well.

So Robbie A very big public THANK YOU from us all both 2 and 4 legged. Now take that rest!!

Items That Can Harm Your Dog

Apples, apricots, cherries, peaches & plums – their seeds/stones contain a type of cyanide compound, and given on a regular basis the fatal effects can be cumulative. A dog chewing on an apricot stone will be exposed to continuous cyanide ingestion.

Avocados – all parts are toxic. They contain Persin which is a fatty acid derivative and if ingested it can cause breathing difficulties, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized congestion and heart failure. The amount needed to poison a dog is not known.

Hops – dried or fresh should be kept away from all breeds. Even small amounts can trigger malignant hyperthermia. Greyhounds are especially sensitive.

Salt – should never be given to a dog to induce vomiting. It can cause the brain to swell and may also cause kidney problems.

Fabric Softener – this is highly toxic to dogs. Signs of ingestion include vomiting, lethargy, burns to the mouth, drooling, muscle weakness and often coma. Owners should not induce vomiting as it exacerbates the situation.

Antifreeze – smells and tastes very sweet to dogs so they may lick up spills, but it is very toxic. Symptoms include vomiting, seizures and lethargy, leading to acute kidney failure.

Watch batteries –if ingested just one can cause a potentially fatal ulceration in the stomach within 12 hours. All alkaline batteries are toxic to dogs.

Boric acid – highly toxic with similar symptoms to fabric softener ingestion. It can be found in many common products such as mouthwash, denture cleaner, as a flame retardant substance on upholstered furniture, contact lens solution and ant powder.

Onions – along with garlic and chives can cause a type of hemolytic anemia, which destroys the red blood cells. Symptoms include rapid heart rate, weakness in limbs, vomiting, diarrhea and blood in the urine.

Xylitol – a sugar free sweetener found in many sweets and chewing gum, it causes the pancreas to secrete insulin resulting in low blood sugar. Signs include a drunken gait, muscle weakness, collapse and seizures.

Chocolate – (also **cocoa garden mulch**) contain Theobromine – the darker the chocolate the higher the level of toxin. It can be fatal and symptoms are slow to show, but include hyperactivity, nausea and vomiting, lethargy, seizures and muscle tremors.

Macadamia nuts – contain a toxin which affects the nervous and digestive system

Easyfundraising.org.uk

TheGivingMachine.com

When shopping online please consider supporting the fundraising efforts of SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE by registering with one or both of the above websites. The great thing is it won't cost you a penny more. You can shop with over 2,000 well known stores and each will donate a percentage of what you spend.

It's really easy to support a cause: first go on to either of the above websites and then

- 1 Click on "Find a cause" and select the cause you wish to support
- 2 Fill out the quick form to register your details
- 3 Find the retailer you want to shop with
- 4 Click to visit the retailer; then shop as you normally would
- 5 Your donation will be shown in your easyfundraising or TheGivingMachine account within 30 days