

## **GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 26**

*Newsletter of*

### **SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE**

Registered Charity Number 1098769  
PO Box 112 Cranbrook Kent TN17 4RB



Holly Shipton

It looks as if Spring has sprung at last, which is a great relief after such a wet winter. 2015 saw another small reduction in the number of dogs we dealt with. 53 Were rehomed, of which 20 originated from breeders or pet breeders, 10 from pet shops or dealers and 23 were from unknown sources. During the year we had to take in two pairs of boys, and they required fostering for 2-3 months as they were in poor health and vastly overweight. Fortunately we were able to give them the necessary veterinary treatment and eventually find them good homes.

Having had to say goodbye to two of our Trustees during the year we are happy to have appointed three new ones. These are Mrs Fiona Appleyard-Dyer, Mr Ray Elsey and Mr David Farnham. You will find brief profiles of Fiona and David in this issue, and Ray's will appear in the next one.

I hope some of you have had a look at our Facebook page. It seems very popular and is producing quite a lot of interest. It also has a link to our Website which of course has all our contact details.

We wish you and your dogs a very happy and healthy summer, and hope to see many of you at our Fun Day on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Creation**

*(Author unknown)*

When God made the earth and sky  
The flowers and the trees  
He then made all the animals  
The fish, the birds, the bees.

And when at last He'd finished  
Not one was quite the same,  
He said I'll walk this world of mine  
And give each one a name.

And so he travelled far and wide  
And everywhere he went  
A little creature followed him  
Until its strength was spent.

When all were named upon the Earth  
And in the sky and sea,  
The little creature said  
“Dear Lord, there's no name left for me”

Kindly the father said to him,  
“I've left you to the end  
I've turned my own name back to front  
And called you Dog, my friend”

## **Microchipping**

I expect you are all aware that on 6<sup>th</sup> April a new law came into being, that all dogs must be microchipped. Hopefully you will have all complied with this by the time you receive this Newsletter, but if you haven't please don't delay any longer. Speak to your Vet as soon as possible. There are people other than Vets who are licensed to do this and there may be someone in your area. For more information you can go on to “[chipmydog.org.uk](http://chipmydog.org.uk)”.

If you have had your dog chipped since adopting him/her please let us know the number so we can keep our records up to date.

You should also note that you should notify the relevant Microchip company if your dog dies. Failure to do this can incur a £500 fine!

## Our First Year with Eddie

Early in November 2014 our much-loved Canonbie Golden Retriever Rosie died. She had been part of our family for almost fifteen years. Despite the presence of four adults and an elderly cat, our home seemed empty. We filled in the forms to get us onto the SGRR waiting list. In a few months, we hoped, a rescue retriever might come and live with us.

As it happened the wait was a short one. Just a few days after filling in the forms, Pat rang with the news that she and Peter had just taken in a 6 year old retriever in need of a home. Would we be interested in coming over to meet him? A couple of days later, Carol, I and our two grown-up sons drove up to Croydon.



Straightaway we were taken by Eddie's friendliness and out-going nature. We took him out for a walk around the block, then it was back to Peter and Pat's where all four of us signed Eddie's 'adoption' papers.

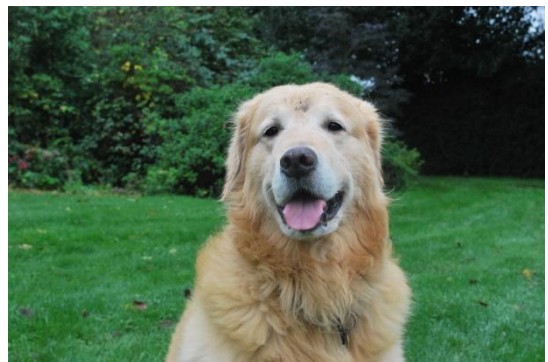


Back home, Eddie was relaxed, but watchful. Over the previous few months, Eddie had had three homes as well as stays in kennels and at Peter and Pat's. No wonder he liked to keep all of his possessions – bones, toys and blanket together close to him. Gradually, as the weeks went by, his pile of toys became scattered throughout the house.

In the early days, Eddie was anxious at night time. Eventually, he worked out a routine: when the last person went to bed and turned off the light, Eddie would follow them upstairs. He'd then check to make sure that every member of his 'family' was safely tucked up in bed, before going back downstairs to bed himself.

Now though, he no longer feels the need to check on us at bedtime. When we turn out the light, and bid him 'good night', he'll maybe give a wag of his tail or raise a sleepy eyebrow. The only thing that bothers him now is appearance of suitcases or overnight bags.

Eddie has many endearing ways. He insists on wiping his face after meals. He doesn't like getting his face wet either. So if it's raining, he'll take his towel out into the garden. He doesn't like cold weather either, so if it's chilly he'll take his blanket out into the back yard. Eddie enjoys going for walks and meeting other dogs, running about [and digging] in the garden and curling up on the sofa at the end of the day.



He greets visitors to the house and he makes everybody smile – even the vet!

We feel honoured to have Eddie as part of the family.

Roy, Carol, Joel & Tom

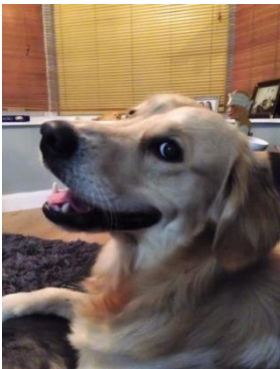


## Life Again



We lost our great Golden Retriever 'Buster' on 28th October 2015, who was a stray in France that we were lucky to have for 12 years, then our lives seemed so empty and we were heartbroken. After my hubby saying no more dogs, it's too hard to lose them, it was not two days after Buster that he stated we had to have another. So without him knowing I contacted Myra from Southern Golden Retriever Rescue, but she said we would have a wait as not many come along at 1 year to 3 years old. I was happy to wait, but hubby was so sad every day - it really hit him hard which is not like him ! We had booked a holiday in January to cheer us up, still I had not told him I was looking for a new boy.

Then only two weeks after completing forms a phone call came from Myra saying that she had a boy just one year old that needed a new home as his family emigrated. We were so excited and could not wait to see him. When finally we got a photo we knew that this was an omen that we had to have him and our Buster was looking down on us making us happy again.



After only three weeks he settled in well, so loving, great with the grandchildren, loved his walks (runs) and cuddles, and was obviously going to be another great dog. It's now three months and he is adorable. He loves being with us all the time, goes for long walks off the lead and loves to play with all dogs. We are going to France for the summer and cannot wait to see him enjoying the open space and our friends' dogs. He is going to have the best life with us and us with him so a big thankyou Myra.



Regards Tony & Elaine Gregory

## Manu – 2002-2015

Manu, (formerly Milo) came to us via Gillian when he was 22 months old. Although he had not been badly treated he was a very needy chap with absolutely no confidence. He was frightened of traffic and people. Road walking was a nightmare and when off the lead he would make a huge detour round people.

I think the penny dropped that life was good when we took him to a wide open sandy beach. We'd had him for three weeks and it was his first time off the lead. A trot turned into a gallop and he ran and ran, coming back to us every so often with a wide smile.

I competed in obedience with him where he wowed the judges with his happy, strutting style and won a Novice class at a SGRS Obedience Show.

Although he gained confidence, Manu always remained a humble chap and never had a bad word to say about any dog or person.

He was, however, the most terrible food thief! No cupboard or work surface was safe! He ate things that would have made lots of dogs ill, but didn't affect him at all! As he got older his coat became very much like a teddy bear's, but his head remained soft and silky and just right for stroking. And that's my over-riding memory of this wonderful, gentle dog.



Sarah Smith

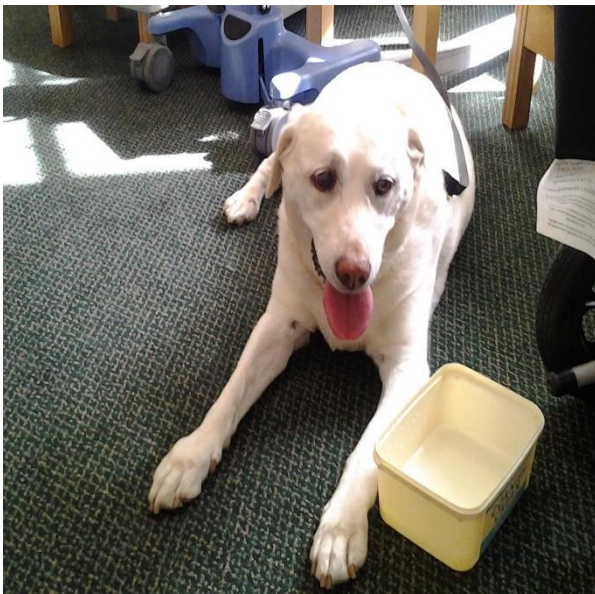
## **Honey and Bonnie**

*(Our Trade Description Rescue Dogs)*

We lost our beloved Honey four weeks ago. She had been with us for 9 years, and our life doesn't seem the same without her and her white hair covering most things. Honey came to us along with Bonnie, an older dog, 3 months after losing Max, our previous rescue goldie. We had received the very welcome phone call, "we have two girls, one youngish, one a lot older needing to be homed together, are you interested?" Of course we were, "can we collect them at their home in Cliffe, it's not too far away from you, we'll send you details". When the details arrived it was not Cliffe, near us in Gillingham, but St Margaret at Cliffe near Dover, 40 miles away. Off the whole family went and what a surprise, up popped two golden labradors, a 3 year old, smooth coated, one called Honey and a 10 year old, rough coated one, Bonnie.

We took them home, along with a sack of food and named dog pads they used as beds. The girls settled in right away and enjoyed their life together with us, especially staying at our caravan in Suffolk. They swam in the river and the lake, had long walks on the common and sand dunes at Great Yarmouth, although neither really liked the sea, and their special treat, sharing a cornet, dog heaven!

We had Bonnie for 4 years and after she went we had to learn a different language for Honey. Bonnie was the noisy one and would bark at the slightest noise. She was the one who would bark to go outside



and Honey would get up and follow her. After Bonnie went, Honey's character came to the fore. She was a very quiet dog, only barking occasionally outside in the garden, if a dog went past the garden but never making a noise indoors. What we had to learn was a variety of looks and body language. To go outside she did a slow walk to the doorway, with a look back over her shoulder, or getting up from her bed. She would also nudge you under the elbow or the book I'd be reading, if I hadn't noticed the first look! Honey had her ways of letting you know what she wanted.

We never had to set the alarm whilst Honey was around, 5:30am was her time to get up, lots of moving around so you knew she was up. She knew that she had to have her tablet first then half an hour later her meal, either breakfast or dinner. So 5:45 am was

tablet time and 25 minutes later, there was Honey in front of you, saying with a look, come on it's breakfast time. It was the same in the evening, 5pm tablet time and 5:30pm dinner time. Labradors are the same as Retrievers, food is a main part of their life.

One big difference we found between our girls and our previous boys (Max and Toby), was their hair; being short it would bury itself in the carpet and despite daily brushing, huge amounts would be hoovered or swept up on a daily basis. The difference between the girls was Bonnie loved being brushed, towelled dry, even liking having the occasional hair dryer after getting wet. Honey did not like any of those, you would have to hold her firmly by the collar to brush her and when wet, you were lucky to get a quick swipe of the towel, before she would duck away. She was one of those dogs that didn't mind being dirty and in fact, relished that state! One of her favourite things was to stand in the middle of a muddy puddle, (the muddier the better!), and when told to come out, would spin round and round, making sure she was well wet and definitely covered in mud. We would have to wait ages for

her to dry and for days later for all the mud spots to dry and disappear from her coat. In later life, Honey mellowed and would tolerate a whole side being brushed in one go, but I never once managed both sides at the same time.

Our lovely, adorable, Honey, our house doesn't feel right without her. We miss her so much along with neighbours and friends, met on her many walks around the neighbourhood. Although she wasn't walking much in her later years, there were still other dog walkers that she met. Our trade description rescue "retriever" will forever live in our hearts, along with the other three rescue dogs. However, we eagerly await the phone call to say we have a golden retriever that needs a home, that we think might suit you, are you interested?

Angela Munden

### Hemmingway Atkins

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 I suddenly needed a new home rather urgently. I am nine and a half years old, very handsome, loving, and friendly. A lady called Myra had a friend called Anne that had lost her very much loved goldie in November, leaving another rescue dog called Jules very lonely and sad. Thankfully Myra rang her friend and asked if she was willing to pick me up and foster me, even though it was very short notice. Luckily she did, and although I say it myself I think I came into their lives at the right time, because now they have adopted me.

Also there is a man called David (I love him), he takes me up a big field where my new friend Jules and I run around



and play together, or just lay around and take in the lovely fresh air. There are two big horses in the field and I pinch some of their feed. There is bit of a story connected to this that I would like to explain.

Here goes!! Anne and David took me to the vet for my kennel cough vaccination. The nice young man looked all over me, and luckily for me in one way, he found a tumour under my teeth in the front of my jaw. Unluckily for me I have had to have about a third of my lower jaw removed, hence I have had to learn to

eat and drink again. Luckily for me the Golden Retriever Rescue Charity said that they would pay for this to be done as it was an existing problem. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to them.

I have just had some of my stitches out, but more have to come out at the beginning of March. I thought no one would love me with a wonky jaw, but apparently I look no less handsome than I did before, so thank you Chris and Ben for the wonderful job you did.

I have learnt to eat again, but I do make a bit of a mess, but my new adopted family do not seem to mind, and never complain. I think they really love me and will look after me for the rest of my life.



*Note from Anne and David.*

*This is the second dog that we have adopted from this charity and would highly recommend them to anyone thinking about doing the same, (don't think about it, if you can afford to have a dog and would really love it, do it) you will get a lot of pleasure and love back.*

*We very much are keeping our fingers crossed that this will be all the treatment Hemmy will need, and he will have a happy healthy future with us for years to come.*

### **New Trustee Fiona**

My name is Fiona Applelyard-Dyer and I was delighted to be asked to become a Trustee of Southern Golden Retriever Rescue as I have been involved with the Charity since 2004.



Our first rescue dog Max came to live with us in November 2004. He was 10 years old and had serious health issues but we loved him straight away. He regained a lot of mobility and his zest for life returned so we got our second rescue Holly the following spring as his companion. She was nine years old and they were an inseparable couple until Max passed away in 1997.

Holly needed a friend to be with so along came Bo, our third rescue aged 8 who Holly took to straight away. Sadly Bo died suddenly in 2013 which left Holly alone without a companion aged 15. As she had had the company of two other dogs she was totally lost without a friend. We got a call about a young 9 month old dog called Riley who had been in three homes and desperately needed a forever home who could provide the love and training he required. Holly sorted Riley out straight away and made it clear she was the boss and we spent the next year at puppy training classes training him into the handsome, well behaved adult dog he now is.

Currently we have Riley now aged 5 and his half-sister Sophie aged 3. She is our first non-rescue dog who we had at 8 weeks as a puppy. Holly finally passed away at aged 16 and we decided to present the Holly cup in her memory to the oldest rescue dog each year at the fun day. Apart from being a trustee at SGRR I am also volunteering for Sussex Caring Pets. This entails me taking Riley into a local school to hear children read who have learning difficulties and we also visit the children's hospital in Brighton. Riley really enjoys the visits and the children love him. Apart from my dogs my other hobbies are walking in the countryside, family life, theatre, drama and singing.

I am really looking forward to working with the charity and hope to meet you all at the next fun day in May.

### **New Trustee David**

I am David Farnham and I am retired, so in theory have time to take on new things. Barbara and I live in Matfield with our two goldies, Brecon and Teasel, not too far from Gordon and Yvonne Bennett.

Our first dog was a labrador, and then in 1975, we puppy walked for Guide Dogs. The first puppy we walked was a goldie called Judy, and the rest as they say is history.

We have been involved with Guide Dogs all this time in a voluntary fund raising capacity, or boarding guide dogs or puppies. This has brought us into a lot of contact with SGRS as the display team has performed at a number of our events, and we have attended many functions with our trading stall. All our goldies have either come from Barbara & Peter Mills, or through their recommendations.

We have now started reducing the amount of time we spend on Guide Dog activities. Additionally Barbara has taken all our goldies to training at Wrotham.

I have some business experience having worked for a multinational company and then run two of my own companies. I have also had some charity experience both through Guide Dogs, and through our church that is now a registered charity.

So I hope I can bring a range of experiences to the role, and am always happy to be in the company of our four-legged friends, and of course your good selves.



### **The Cinnamon Trust**

The Cinnamon Trust is a wonderful organisation which is based in Cornwall but actually covers the whole country. Apart from taking in and looking after dogs of owners who have died, they also have volunteers who will exercise dogs for people who are no longer able to do this due to age or infirmity, but who still wish to keep their pets. The proviso is that the owner must be over 60 years of age or terminally ill.

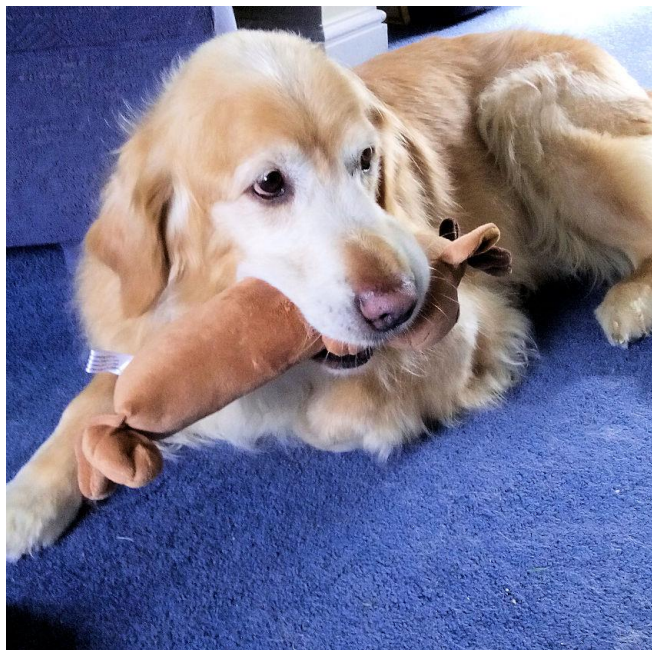
The address is 10 Market Square, Hayle, Cornwall. TR27 4HE, Tel: 01736 757900.



## Ben Delaney

Another year, another up-date!

Ben has now been part of the family for six years. It seems hardly possible, but it is. He is starting to age gracefully and now has a white mask and silver hairs among the gold!



He is undoubtedly beginning to feel his age [almost 11]. He now tackles Corkscrew Hill quite slowly and happily accepts a lift into the car, but manages the stairs easily and walks almost endlessly on the level and downhill. Otherwise his character remains largely unchanged. He is still immature, loves attention and steals socks, gloves and anything else within reach, proudly showing off his loot and offering to swop them for a treat.

His new great joy in life are our two grandchildsons, who each love him and - more important - feed him tit-bits, which obviously increases the mutual bond!

The only downside is that we have never managed to keep a retriever much beyond the age of 11 and are both silently wondering if Ben will have another year. However, Ben knows nothing of this and

probably wouldn't care if he did, as long as there is an inexhaustible supply of affection, walks and food.

Hope all is well with you and yours and all the best for the remainder of 2016.

Kevin and Dawn Delaney