



'finding forever homes
for Greyhounds'

Greyhoundhomer RGT Greyhoundhomer



Newsletter Winter 2013

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◆ INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Winter 2013 Greyhoundhomer Newsletter, January seems to have gone by quick as a flash, and despite some rotten weather part way through we had a good month for homings and have seen more than 20 Greyhounds rehomed.

January also saw a few problems, those of you who read the forum or news page of our website will know that Pat took a tumble on the stairs at home and has broken a leg between the knee and ankle. Large amounts of swelling around the ankle and foot have meant that getting a plaster put on has been very much delayed and Pat has been finding it very hard to get about on crutches. Despite these challenges regular volunteers have stepped up to help with homings and Pat has been able to get to the computer at least once a day to answer emails, however I believe she will soon be investing in a new Laptop making it easier to keep up with her emails. A big thank you to Andrea, Katie, Andrew, Emma, Bob, Mary and our regular walkers for keeping everything running as smoothly as possible (sorry if I've missed anyone!).

In this Winters Newsletter we've got some information about the work carried out to breathe a new lease of life into the Dunton kennels.

By Mark Wilson

◆ TICKET ONLY EVENTS – MARCH 2013

In March, we've got a couple of Ticket only events that you might wish to join, first up is Ten Pin Bowling...

On Sunday the 10th of March Diane Race has managed to secure an afternoons bowling at the Kursaal in Southend on Sea to raise funds for us. The cost per adult is £8.00 and for children under 16 it's £6.50, this buys you two games plus shoe hire. The price doesn't include any food or drink though, however as part of the Greyhoundhomer party any food and drink purchased will attract a 10% discount. If you would like to attend this event you should contact Diane on **07795 370 990**, or email **rockerbunny72@hotmail.co.uk**. Alternatively you can send a personal message (PM) to Diane via our forum she has a user name of '**prince**', a thread containing information about this event has been started in our forum **here**.

For more information about the venue, **click here**. For a map **click here**.

Spaces for this event are limited so get in quick!



Greyhound FACTS

We're all familiar with the saying of "a dog is man's best friend", and there is historical evidence to support the claim. Alexander the Great's favorite dog is believed to have been the Greyhound. Around 500 BC, Greyhounds were depicted on the face of coins. Greyhounds also have been part of more modern history - in 1493 they became the first European dogs in the New World. General George Custer is said to have 14 Greyhounds.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

21st

Meet & Greet
Tesco, Gallows
Corner, Romford

23rd / 24th

The Brentwood
Spring Craft &
Gift Show
Brentwood Centre
Brentwood, Essex

23rd

Harpenden Art,
Craft and Antiques
Fayre
Methodist Church
Hall, Harpenden,
Hertfordshire

MARCH

3rd

Thai \ Indian Food
Night
Royal Tiger,
Rettendon, Essex
(Booking required)

3rd

Ten Pin Bowling
1st Bowl Southend,
Kursaal, Southend
on Sea, Essex
(Booking required)

APRIL

20th

St Georges Day
2013
Valance Park,
Dagenham, Essex

28th

Greyhound Walks
Show and Family
Fun Day
Great Notley
Country Park,
Braintree, Essex

◆ DIANE RACE ON FOSTERING AND 'DUCHESS'

After taking home Prince two years ago I have always wanted a second dog. But decided to help Greyhoundhomer by fostering to get Greyhounds ready for their forever homes. Fostering Greyhounds is a wonderful experience and a pleasure to have different characters and personalities come into my home, not just to assess them but to teach them the obstacles they may face when they find their forever home such as stairs, hoovers and introducing them to many different dog breeds.

Walking them out and about with my own Greyhound and showing the public that they make wonderful pets after a racing career is a joy. I find the public approach me more with a foster hound and I'm able to dispel the many misconceptions people have about Greyhounds like they need a lot of exercise where as we know them to be 40mph couch potatoes!

To date I have fostered four Greyhounds, 3 of which have been rehomed, each one unique with loving and gentle natures. My latest foster hound has been Duchess aka Duckie, Duckette who has been an absolute dream to have in my home, ever since she first arrived. She seemed to know what retirement was and within minutes made herself at home by finding the sofa! She has made us laugh every day with her comical antics, she loved a cuddle at night before bed and was good with other dogs and children and will be a pleasure to the lucky person who rehomes her.



Duchess (Duckette)

Article by Diane Race

◆ TICKET ONLY EVENTS – MARCH 2013

Thai and Indian Night we'll be holding at the Royal Tiger restaurant on the Old Southend Road, Rettendon. The event is being run and organised for us by Linda Tweddell and was very popular last time we held an event there.



The price per head is £20 which will include a strip of raffle tickets, and one of the prizes will be a meal for four and a bottle of red wine at the Royal Tiger. As with all these events there are a limited number of spaces, in this case about 50, but more maybe available if necessary.

If you would like to book a number of spaces for the meal please call **Linda** on **01268 280 300**. You can pay in advance or on the night.

Date: Sunday 3rd March

Time: 5:00pm

Address: Royal Tiger, Old Southend Road, Rettendon Common, Essex, CM3 8EE

Website: www.theroyaltiger.com

Map: 



Greyhound FACTS

Racing Greyhounds are bred for their speed, and are not susceptible to the congenital defects or temperament problems of many other breeds. Generally only the fastest, healthiest and best tempered animals are used as breeding stock.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

11/12th

Robin Hood Game
and Country Show
Brentwood
Centre,
Brentwood, Essex

16th

Tesco Meet &
Greet
Mayflower Retail
Park, Basildon,
Essex

19th

Essex Young
Farmers Show
Boyton Hall,
Roxwell, Essex

25/26th

Hertfordshire
County Show
The Showground,
Redbourn,
Hertfordshire

26th

Greyhound
Extravaganza
Animal Health
Trust, Kentford,
Suffolk

JUNE

9th

Havering Happy
Hounds Show
Gooshays Drive,
Romford, Essex

29th

Tesco Meet &
Greet
Pitsea, Basildon,
Essex

◆ PAT REVIEWS 2012 AND LOOKS TO THE YEAR AHEAD

In this item Pat takes a look back at 2012 and the events that brought us to where we are now and then looks forward to 2013, albeit with a broken leg!

I was asked by Mark to write an article about Greyhoundhomer 2012 activities, how the homing went etc. Well what could you say other than we were doing extremely well with the homing and we were well in front of the 2011 numbers, which was fantastic. Then all of a sudden out of the blue we were given 24 hours in which to remove all dogs from the kennels and find new places for them, we were extremely fortunate in that Alison Ingram and her husband Pete heard about this even though they were abroad on holiday, she immediately sent me a text telling me to get as many as we could take into her kennels, which is what we did, her staff were fantastic and bent over to help us. John Simpson and his wife Maggie also went out of their way to accommodate as many as possible. As we homed dogs we moved the dogs from John's to Alison's, so that we had all dogs in one place and available for people to see. We scoured the Essex Countryside for new kennels to take our Greyhounds in permanently, which was extremely hard as some kennels just did not fit the bill. Eventually Lorraine Sams our steward suggested Kelly Findlays Lynton kennels, at first Kelly was reluctant and I can fully understand her reason to be so, then fortunately for us she had a change of mind and took us in. We were given a block of kennels, that were lovely but needed some upgrading, due to the length of time that they had been unused. We first had the paddocks cemented and covered, so that it was easier for Kelly and also that the dogs could be out in all weathers. Then we started cleaning up the kennels and painting the walls and Bob put in new beds. As we worked through and completed the kennels the dogs were rehoused in them and looked a picture of happiness, warm and cosy and clean, what more could you ask for! Unfortunately for me, whilst the painting of the kennels was going on, I had an accident at home and broke my leg and was unable to help, so I had to leave all the painting and cleaning to



Katie, Andrew, Emma, Andrea and Michael, who have (I've been told) done a brilliant job. Bob and Mary have done the beds, which again I have been told are brilliant. Also a huge thank you to David Ames who replaced roofing at the kennel free of charge in memory of his late Greyhound, Bob. I only saw the first lot of kennels done and must admit they were amazing.

Whilst I am stuck at home until the bruising and swelling go down and I can get a proper plaster done, I have been doing loads of paperwork for all the dogs that have been homed and giving the girls all the home checks to do and constantly answering the phone and talking to different trainers and event managers, so we should have a busy year ahead of us. At the moment in the kennels we have the loveliest of dogs, all so calm and happy. So a big well done to all that helped, the calls did not stop coming in, wishing us well and offers of help. Alison Ingram had two events at her kennels and raised money on heads and tails and also a raffle and she has also made us a donation which is extremely kind of her. Our supporters have sent us treats for the dogs, duvets etc, all of which is a great help in the kennels. Unfortunately the ground at the kennels is so muddy at the moment, due to the extremely bad weather

(cont. on page 4)



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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

6/7th

Robin Hood
Country Show
Garron Park,
Southend on Sea,
Essex

27th

Barking &
Dagenham
Community Fayre
Town Hall,
Barking, Essex

SEPTEMBER

14/15th

Essex Country
Show
Barleylands,
Billericay, Essex

21st

Great Greyhound
Gathering
Nottingham
Racecourse,
Nottingham,
Nottinghamshire

and is taking a time to dry out. Hopefully we can get a bit of good weather soon so the walkers can come back again and walk the dogs. So let's hope that this year is going to go on to be a great one for us, I would lastly like to thank everyone who helped out in our hour of need, from kennels to painters to bed makers to home checkers and to all those people who homed our dogs, what would we have done without you. The answer is we would have had to close down, but thankfully that is not the case, now with your help many more dogs will be homed thank you all!

Article by Pat Philpot

◆ BIRTH OF THE HOUNDIE HILTON

When we moved into our fantastic new kennel block in November 2012, we knew we had quite a bit of redecoration to undertake, including the rebuild of the current paddock blocks adjacent to our kennels, but a small group of us came up with a plan of action and rolled up our sleeves.

Pat put a notice on the widely used forum asking for donations of paint and carpet, and people were very generous in delivering more than enough.

Carpet Right at Rom Valley, Romford very kindly donated around 200 carpet samples which were a perfect fit for the old concrete dog beds until we could build new ones.

We have 3 neighbouring kennel blocks in Dunton and the plan was to complete one at a time, so we always had enough spare kennels to keep the dogs away from the fumes of the paint and the noise and disruption. Thankfully this worked well.

In December 2012 the kennel block most in need of some TLC was cleared and prepared for painting. At the same time the builders moved in to replace the paddock area which was finished just before Christmas. The painting team, Andrew, Katie, Emma, Andrea and Michael then moved in (almost!) to spend as much of their spare time as possible painting the walls, floors, and worst of all the hundreds of metal kennel bars (it felt like a million!).

With the sheer amount of bad weather

we have had this winter, we quickly realised that the roof to one side of the kennel block needed urgent attention, but we had the most generous person David Ames and his wife Carole step forward and completely replace this section of roof out of the kindness of their heart. David performed the work in memory of his recently passed away Greyhound called Bob.

Bob and Mary have been frantically busy, building fantastic new beds for the dogs, and as you'll see from the photos, the dogs do look extremely cosy.

(cont. on page 5)



BEFORE



AFTER



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BEFORE



AFTER

On Saturday 2nd February, the painting team finally laid their paintbrushes and rollers to rest and went home to nurse their calluses!

By the time you would have read this article Bob and Mary would have finished replacing the last section of beds and it will be time for us all to have a little celebratory glass or two of fizzy stuff.

Everyone who has visited the newly refurbished kennels so far has remarked how lucky the dogs are to be so comfortable and cosy, and that was always our main aim!

Article written by Andrea Chapman

One of Greyhoundhomers hounds awaiting a new home relaxes in the new kennels...what you want me to get up and go for a walk outside in the cold? You've gotta be kiddin' me!



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◆ **GREYHOUNDS LOOKING FOR A HOME**

In this newsletter we've highlighted three Greyhounds who are looking for a home, the three chosen have been so because they've been in our kennels for some time now and really should have found their forever home by now.



Max (Faulkners Quiver) has been with us for a while now, coming in for rehoming in June 2012, Max can be extremely excitable and his walkers get great big kisses when it's time for a walk. He is very talkative in his kennel when he's excited and he simply makes people smile. He is a lovely boy who will make a great pet for a very lucky family.

Contact Pat Philpot, 01708 551 689



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easyfundraising
.org.uk

Help us raise
funds when you
shop online
through
Easyfundraising,
join for free, it
costs you
nothing!



Ceejay (Shirt and Tie) has been with us a while now, he came in for rehoming during March 2012, if everyone could be as happy as Ceejay the world would be a much better place and the happiness that he will bring to his new owners will surely make their world a better place. He needs reminding of his size sometimes and will best fit a family where any children are big enough to withstand the force of his wagging tail! He has a sweet nature and so much to give, so why not pay him a visit?

Contact Pat Philpot, 01708 551 689

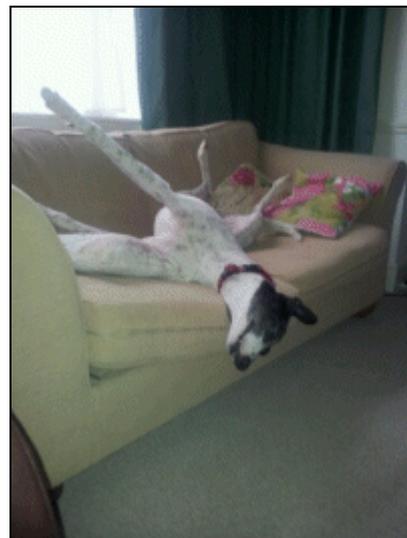


Lina (Paradisus Time) has been with a while now, she started out her time looking for a new home at Ockendon, before being moved to Bishops Stortford. She joined our rehoming list in June 2012, Lina is a quiet girl who is a bit shy especially with men but once she gets to know you she is fine.

Contact Elaine Sheppard, 01279 501 899

◆ LONG TERM WALKER FINALLY TAKES A HOUND HOME

Lisa Cornish is a long time volunteer dog walker for Greyhoundhomer, and has seen a number of changes in kennel locations over the years. She started out walking our retired Greyhounds with her father, but now she walks with her boyfriend, Nick Rowe. Lisa has long wanted to own a Greyhound but has been unable to due to work commitments, however at the beginning of 2013, she managed to fulfil that dream and took home Stanley (racing name: Steinbeck), he'd been in our kennels a while and so she gave him a home. Lisa has now written an item about her and Nicks pleasure at giving Stanley a home.



Stanley brings us so much joy, we can't imagine a time now that we didn't have him and its only been just over a month!

We had made a pact of 'no dogs on sofas', having bought him a very comfy bed! However we soon crumbled and during week one I would come home from work, peer through the window to see Stanleys legs in the air fully stretched on the sofa! So that was the sofa taken over!

Stanley hates my scatter cushions, but then so does Nick, so I think secretly they are on a mission to rid the flat of them between them. Clearly for Stanley and Nick they are objects of discomfort when they're using the sofa.



We have discovered that Stanley absolutely loves a pigs ear! But is just as happy with biscuits...he is funny, cheeky, affectionate...and we absolutely love him!

Article by Lisa Cornish



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After months of training, Martine van Rooyen is taking on the 13 miles of the Barcelona Half Marathon on

Sunday the 17th of February to raise funds for Greyhoundhomer. She hopes to raise funds to help the hounds still looking for a home, but also runs in memory of Lily, a much loved Greyhound who is now running free at the Rainbow Bridge.

Martine is hoping to raise about £200.00 for Greyhoundhomer and Mark has kindly set up a Charity fundraising page for her at MyDonate. If you would like to sponsor Martine she'd much appreciate your support. To do so click **here**.

About the Barcelona Half Marathon

The half-marathon in Barcelona, also known as the Asics Mitja Marató de Barcelona, is held every February. It's the second largest running event in Barcelona next to the Marathon. The next half-marathon takes place on 17th February 2013, and is also open to wheelchair users.

The 21,0975 km long route takes the runners from the Arc de Triomf, by the old town to the Plaça Catalunya. From there it goes down the famous Ramblas and along Avenida del Paral·lel. Then it goes through the modernist Eixample district back to the Arc de Triomf, Parc de la Ciutadella further along the eastern part of Eixample to the Torre Agbar, one of the most striking buildings in Barcelona. The route takes the runners along the Diagonal then goes to the Fòrum and along the beach again at the Parc de la Ciutadella to Arc de Triomf, which is the finishing line. With this route a very interesting and varied street circuit is marked out.



The Route



Good luck to Martine, and thanks for taking part in this event to raise funds for us.



Greyhound FACTS

The first Greyhound came to Australia with Captain Cook in 1770.

In 1804, Australia issued a proclamation ordering the destruction of all dogs EXCEPT Greyhounds and Sheepdogs.



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◆ FUNDRAISING...WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Katie Isaac who regularly helps us out had the idea for this article, she thought it might be helpful to those who might want to help out when they can but are unsure whether they want to make that step. So in the below article Katie talks about what goes on at a Fundraising event and how everyone comes together to raise money for and promote the idea of Greyhounds as pets.

Over the past year Greyhoundhomer has attended many events with our usual green Events trailer particularly during the show season which runs from May to September. In an effort to raise awareness of greyhound rehoming, and raise much needed funds.

I think other than the Olympic weeks we were out practically every weekend attending one event or another, from Young Farmers show at Chelmsford to the many events we have done with Barking and Dagenham Council, from small shows 'Paws in the Park' events in Barking, to our largest the 2 day Essex Country Show at Barleylands. They have all been enjoyable, if not a little wet this year, and we have got the word out there about these beautiful animals.

But what is involved in setting up one of these events, firstly, Pat will book the shows, follow up on any contacts, and generally wherever possible get us booked for as many events as we can. A good few of the shows we attend stands are given for free, recognition for the charitable nature of the stand. But a few we have to pay for, and so we need to ensure that we have plenty of stock to recoup our money. Dog treats, stock and toys need to be bought from wholesalers, coats, leads, muzzles etc need to be ordered, and donations need to be collected from various parties.



Once this is all done the low value items are transferred to our storage container, and sorted, then either on

the day prior to the show or early on the morning of the show we need to load our events trailer. Again ensuring that gazebos, tables, display stands etc are all in workable order and loaded.



If the show is a full day, or 2 day event, we also take food and drink which cuts down on the cost of the day, and avoids us having to keep leaving the stand.

On the day of the show its an early start all round, many events open at 8.30 -9am, so prior to this the trailer has to be collected and towed to the event, the pitch has to be found, and our dedicated team of supporters will make their own way and meet us at the showground, its then a case of setting up the trailer, rain gazebo getting the stock set out, and the most important part setting up the 'cookhouse' gazebo and getting the kettle on. Many of the shows we also run fun dog shows, and these are fantastic, drawing people to the stand, and getting kids involved with their dogs, being rewarded with rosettes, and trophies. During the day many, many people will comment on how calm, and well behaved our greyhounds are, often we will have up to 10 dogs all happily lazing around or being fussed, sometimes even bear hugged by excited toddlers, which they all take in their stride. Show days normally finish about 5pm, and we do the whole thing in reverse.

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◆ FUNDRAISING...WHAT'S INVOLVED? (continued)

These days are hard work but when at the end of the day, we have had fun, met loads of interesting people, talked endlessly about greyhounds, hopefully made some money, and got some good rehoming enquiries you know all the effort is totally worthwhile, although your feet may be telling you something completely different!

And its important to say that all monies raised go straight back into the dogs, to pay for vets bills, rehoming packs, collars, leads, coats etc.), and all the other subsidiary costs, printer ink, paper, stationery.

As ever with charities we are always after more helpers, so if any of you would like to come and join us at any of the shows, and help on the stand, or just bring your houndies over for some fuss and treats, then please do so we are a very friendly bunch, and will make you very welcome, so don't be shy!

Article by Katie Isaac





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CONTACTS

♦ WANT TO GET IN TOUCH?

If you have any comments about this Newsletter, or would like to get in touch with a member of the committee, please use the details below:

Contact John Sheppard (Chairman)
Email john@greyhoundhomer.co.uk
Phone 01279 501 899

Contact Pat Philpot (Homing Co-ordinator & Merchandising)
Email pat@greyhoundhomer.co.uk
Phone 01708 551 689

Contact Elaine Richards (Kennel Maintainer, Hertfordshire)
Email elaine@greyhoundhomer.co.uk
Phone 01279 501 899
Mobile 07505 307 810

Contact Dick Philpot (Secretary)
Email c/o pat@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Contact Mary Madsen (Treasurer)
Email mary@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Contact Bob Madsen (Photography)
Email bob@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Contact Mark Wilson
(IT Administration, Webmaster & Marketing Assistant)
Email mark@greyhoundhomer.co.uk



Pat Philpot
Greyhoundhomer RGT
106 Parsonage Road
Rainham
Essex
RM13 9LF



www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Helping Hands include:

Daniel Marsh . Alan & Hazel
Homer . Andrew, Katie and
Emma Isaac . Sue Bestjan
Rob, Lesley, Aran & Kiera
Freeman . Andrea Chapman
Pat Sheppard . Diane Race

Dog Walkers include:

Lisa Cornish & Nick Rowe . Cheryl Hart
The Bergen Family . Louise Chick
Edgar Munns . Millie & Norman Stevens
Dave Soady . Helen & Chris Daguier
Hazel Homer

We'd like to send our thanks out to all those who help us out throughout the year, there are so many of you, far too many to list above, your help is **very much** appreciated!

Got an idea for the next newsletter?

If you've got an idea for the next newsletter, please submit it by **email** to Mark.