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## Newsletter

### Spring 2015

- | Introduction
- | Truly "Sue the Jam"
- | Greyhoundhomer Retired Greyhound Show
- | Greyhound Walks 2015
- | Annual Charity Golf Day
- | New Chief Executive at the RGT
- | Pat Sheppard: A year helping out at Greyhoundhomer
- | 40 Year Rehoming Greyhounds
- | Goodbye Billy
- | Elaine Sheppard: Life at our Bishops Stortford Kennels
- | Get in touch

# Greyhoundhomer RGT



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Greyhoundhomers Spring 2015 Newsletter. It's been about a year since we created a letter and therefore this is long overdue!

2014 was a busy year and we saw 201 Greyhounds rehomed, rather than write an introduction myself I'm going to hand straight over to a piece Pat has written to bring everyone up to date on the current years going on.

Just a quick update on how we did for 2014, we managed to home 201 dogs, which is really great in this climate, 201 dogs now happy in their new homes, something to be very proud of. We have started this year with 27 homed to date and another 14 reserved awaiting home checks etc. before they go to new homes.

Unfortunately with our helpers things are not so great, we first had Bob taken ill and he now starts Chemo on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month, then it was Katie's turn and she is now having Chemo and is on her second month of treatment, Pia has her date for her operation and last but not least Lorraine is awaiting her turn to go in for her operation, we really wish all of them well and if any of them need help I know that everybody is here at any time for them. Best wishes to them all and get well quickly.

As most of you will know Andrew and Katie's dog has also had an operation for cancer and is recovering at Ann's. There is no way we can thank her enough for her help and love she is giving the dog and what a weight it is that she has taken off Andrew and Katie, so big thanks to Ann, Andrew and Katie's other dog was attacked by two off lead Alsatians and is recovering well.

We have a number of dates fixed for the coming year, some we have had to drop due to not having enough people available to help, so if you would like to help please get in touch. Dianne and Shirley will kick off the year with a Quiz Night, all details on our website in the **Whats On** page, where all the events we'll be attending throughout the year are listed.

Big dates being our annual Golf day 10<sup>th</sup> June at Stapleford Abbots, teams of four, but don't worry if you are on your own, we have people who play who cannot make up a team, another big day is our dog show on 20<sup>th</sup> June for all retired Greyhounds, does not matter where they were homed from, the form for prepayment available on our site, it is a brilliant day for you and your dog.

A BIG thank you to Tom, Maureen and the Kennel staff who do a fantastic job of looking after the Greyhounds.

It just leaves me to thank everybody who has helped in anyway throughout the year, whether it is walking the dogs to attending events, to making gifts and selling them, everything no matter how large or small helps us and the kennels.

Words never seem to be enough, you all deserve a big pat on the back and a very big thank you, keep up the good work, it is so good seeing you all be there for those who need it and also for the love you give the dogs.

A big thank you to Mark, without whom I would not have had a computer to keep in touch with everybody and a big thank you to all that he does on the website.

**Pat Philpot**



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## THIS YEARS EVENTS...

For more  
information on any  
of the event below  
please visit our  
**website.**

**21st March**  
Harpenden Arts,  
Crafts & Antiques Fair  
Harpenden

**21st March**  
Mardyke Team  
Ministry Pet Day 2015  
Ockendon

**4th April**  
Berkhamsted Artisans,  
Arts & Crafts Market -  
Berkhamsted

**3rd & 4th May**  
All About Dogs  
Brentwood

**17th May**  
Essex Young Farmers  
Show  
Roxwell

**23rd May**  
Harpenden Arts,  
Crafts & Antiques Fair  
Harpenden

**10th June**  
Greyhoundhomer  
Charity Golf Day  
Stapleford Abbots

**20th June**  
The Stifford Show  
Stifford

**28th June**  
Feast & Fayre  
Horndon on the Hill

**4/5th July**  
Robin Hood Country  
Show  
Southend on Sea

## TRULY "SUE THE JAM"

I'm known as "Sue the Jam" on the Greyhoundhomer Forum because I am an enthusiastic home preserve maker - jams, marmalades and sometimes chutney too.

Years ago, when my mum gave me her jam-making equipment, I just used the giant cauldron to make mulled wine on the barbecue (yum!). But one year, my little orchard was so laden with fruit I decided to make jam for the first time since leaving home. I soon realised that even a tiny orchard yields hundreds of pots of jam - what could I do with it all? I asked Greyhoundhomer whether I could donate a few pots for their charity stall and the rest is history!

I now make around 500 pots of jam and marmalade every year, most of which I donate to Greyhoundhomer. Because I mainly use whatever fruit I have in my garden, and citrus fruit from the market, I tend to make rich and unusual preserves, often including enriching ingredients like home mulled wine, spices and liqueurs. The preserves are very popular and I'm so proud that my hobby has helped to pay for a lot of treats, and essentials, for Greyhoundhomers rescue hounds.

This year I entered the "World Marmalade Awards" for the first time ever. To my surprise and delight, I won a Silver Award in the "merry marmalade" category for a five citrus marmalade enriched with mango liqueur - it was sunshine in a jar, so it's called "Sunshiny Day".

If you're at a Greyhoundhomer event why not look out for the jams and marmalades - every penny goes to the hounds and, in return, you'll get something lush to add to your toast/crumpets/porridge!



For those of you with Twitter accounts,  
you might like to follow us, **click here** to  
visit our Twitter account.





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### THIS YEARS EVENTS...

For more information on any of the events below please visit our [website](#).

**5th July**  
Hemel Hempstead  
School Summer Fayre  
Hemel Hempstead

**9th August**  
Greyhound Walks  
Show 2015  
Braintree

**30th/31st August**  
The Havering Show  
Hornchurch

**12/13th September**  
Essex Country Show  
Billericay

**19th September**  
Woburn Sands  
Handmade Craft  
Market  
Woburn Sands

**26th September**  
Mardyke Team  
Ministry Pet Day 2015  
Purfleet

**17th October**  
Woburn Sands  
Handmade Craft  
Market  
Woburn Sands

**7/8th November**  
Brentwood Festive  
Gift and Craft Show  
2015  
Brentwood

**21st/22nd November**  
Cambs Festive Gift  
Show 2015  
Godmanchester

## The 2015 Stifford Show with Greyhoundhomer RGT Retired Greyhound Show

It's getting closer to one of the most popular events in our yearly events calendar, Greyhoundhomers Annual Greyhound Show will be taking place as usual at the Stifford Show on **Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of June**. We're hoping that we have great weather for the event. The event will take place on the Cricket Green:

High Road  
Sherwood  
North Stifford  
Essex  
RM16 5UD

For a Google Map [click here](#).

This year's event will be bigger than ever with more classes than last year. You'll be able to purchase all the usual Greyhound goodies and we'll have a stall full of brac-a-brac. You can enter your dog(s) into the show for £3 each in advance to be received by the 13<sup>th</sup> of June at the latest, or enter on the day for £4 each, latest entry 12pm.

There will be 14 classes this year and if time permits we'll run some fun classes after the main show. Prize rosettes will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed dogs, with a trophy for the winner of each class.

### Help Greyhoundhomer RGT out when you shop online!

If you regularly shop online you can help Greyhoundhomer out at no cost to yourselves. We've set up a web shop on Easy Fundraising. By going to the Greyhoundhomer Easy Fundraising shop and clicking on a link for one of the many affiliated retailers you can effectively donate to Greyhoundhomer because a percentage of anything you buy is given to us. Easy Fundraising work with many online retailers, such as Amazon, M&S, Littlewoods, Play.com etc. if you'd like to visit our Easy Fundraising 'shop', please [click here](#). Donations are only made if you visit the web shop via our Easy Fundraising shop, and only if you buy something.

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk



featuring

## The 9th Annual Greyhoundhomer RGT Retired Greyhound Show

### Saturday 20th June 2015

Book your Greyhounds  
in from 10am

Judging start at  
11am sharp



Advance entry  
£3 per Greyhound

On the day entry  
£4 per Greyhound

- | Competitions
- | Bric a Brac
- | Greyhound Goodies
- | Entertainment

For further information and to enter your Greyhound please visit [www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk](http://www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk) and click on the banner on our homepage.

*'...a great day out for  
the whole family...'*



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Poster by Mark Wilson

www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Click [here](#) to download an entry form.

www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk



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## GREYHOUNDHOMER GREYHOUND WALKS 2015

After the success of the walks Pia van Pragh has organised previously she has added more dates for 2015:

### Sunday 29th March

Thorndon Country Park (North)  
The Avenue, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3RZ  
**MAP**

### Sunday 12th April

Chafford Gorges Nature Park  
Drake Road, Grays, Thurrock, Essex, RM16 6RG  
**MAP**

### Sunday 10th May

Belhus Woods  
Romford Road, Aveley, Essex, RM15 4XJ  
**MAP**

All walks start at 10.30am and parking is available at all locations. **Please note parking at Belhus and Thorndon £2.50. As always weather permitting!**

Please feel free to advertise elsewhere to fellow Greyhound owners (and other breeds) to come along and join us.

Dates are subject to change due to Greyhoundhomer events starting soon, please keep checking the **forum** for updates.



## THE 6TH ANNUAL GREYHOUNDHOMER CHARITY GOLF DAY

On **Wednesday the 10th of June** the 6th Annual Greyhoundhomer Charity Golf Day will take place at Stapleford Abbots Golf Club, Essex. This is now an annual event in our calendar and is always very popular. The details for the Golf Day are as follows...

Your day will kick off at 9:30am with coffee and bacon rolls, then teams of four will tee off for 18 holes of golf. After the event you will be served with a carvery.

The cost for this event is £55.00 per person payable in advance. Cheques should be made payable to '**Greyhoundhomer RGT**' and sent to:

Pat Philpot  
Greyhoundhomer Charity Golf Day  
106 Parsonage Road  
Rainham  
Essex  
RM13 9LF

You can also pay via MyDonate by clicking **here**, please ensure that you do **NOT** click on the UK tax payer option since you are receiving a service in return for your payment meaning we are unable to claim any tax back.

A map showing the events location can be found **here**; and you can visit the website for the Golf Course **here**.

For further details please contact Pat Philpot on **01708 551 689**.



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## RETIRED GREYHOUND TRUST APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE



The Retired Greyhound Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa Morris-Tomkins as its new Chief Executive. She will replace Peter Laurie who is leaving the charity after three and a half years to take up the position of Director of Operations at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

Commenting on the appointment, RGT Chairman Dr Andrew Higgins said: "I am greatly looking forward to welcoming Lisa to the Trust. She beat a strong pool of applicants to land the role and her passion for animal welfare generally and Greyhounds in particular, combined with her strong and relevant experience, really shone through.

"Importantly, Lisa has experience not only of working with staff and volunteers across large branch networks but also of fundraising, financial management and external affairs.

"I have no doubt that under Lisa's leadership, the Trust will continue to find homes for thousands of Greyhounds each year and strengthen its position as one of the country's leading welfare and rehoming organisations."

Currently, Lisa is the Interim Chief Executive of Greyhound Rescue West of England. She had previously held several senior positions within the charity sector, including Director of Operations for the Southern Region at the RSPCA. In that role she not only supported and developed a large network of RSPCA branches to deliver animal welfare services to their local communities but also managed a network of rehoming centres and veterinary hospitals and was involved in external and public affairs and fundraising.

Lisa Morris-Tomkins said: "I feel privileged to be joining the Retired Greyhound Trust and all of the special people that work, volunteer and support the Trust in their tireless work to home Greyhounds when they retire from their racing careers.

"I am looking forward to working closely with the Trustees, staff and the Branch network to further the reach of RGT, ensure more people recognise us, support us and experience our wonderful work.

"I am delighted to bring my professional experience, my passion for animal welfare and my love for these amazing dogs to RGT in its very special 40th Anniversary year."

Lisa's first day at the RGT will be Monday 2nd February 2015. She will be based with the Trust's team of staff at its office in Worcester Park, Surrey.

**Retired Greyhound Trust Website**

[www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk](http://www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk)



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## PAT SHEPPARD ON SUPPORTING GREYHOUNDHOMER

Although Craft Fairs and Greyhounds may at first seem a strange combination, it is just another way of raising the profile of the retired racing greyhound but in a non-animal environment.

Previously a regular member of the team at most of the summer shows, my dogs used to love the fuss and attention they received from the public. The downside, however, was all the travelling (we live in Luton) and it was with reluctance that the decision was taken to step back and channel support for Greyhoundhomer from another direction, hence my entry into the world of craft fairs, school fetes and Christmas bazaars within a 20 mile radius of Luton in Herts, Beds and Bucks.

Emma, my granddaughter, recently presented Greyhoundhomer at two school charity assemblies, she helps me at the fairs and also makes a range of cards which sell very well.

Although I now also make cards, using stamping, die cutting and colouring techniques to widen the range on sale, I initially started using (and still use) recycled cards which after a make-over sell very well as eco-friendly greetings cards for all occasions. Cards for Christmas 2015 have been made and are ready for sale from October.

From humble beginnings, the stall now boasts an eye-catching Greyhoundhomer sign and banner. A new 8-tier card rack has been purchased, but other than some specific card sizes and envelopes, all items on sale have been donated or recreated.

A presence at regular venues and a specific stall are important and although the faces may change, there are always people interested in the dogs up for homing who generously donate via the red collection box.

The following events are advertised in "**Whats On**" the Greyhoundhomer website.

CCC Fairs at Woburn usually co-insides with the local farmers market. It's just a couple of minutes from Woburn Abbey, the ancestral home of the Duke of Bedford, the Antiques Centre and Safari Park. Although only a small venue, there is plenty of free parking and refreshments are available. It is dog friendly. My girl Cara comes along and does a greyt job meeting and greeting the public at large.

This year Harpenden Arts, Crafts & Antique Fair only has 3 events, of which we will be at 2, in March and May. This is a very affluent and vibrant town just north of St Albans.

Berkhamstead, another affluent and vibrant town with a farmers market on the same day, we tried this out in March and will be back in April.

On 5 July, we will be running the Greyhoundhomer stall at Hemel Hempstead High School, close to Jct 8 of the M1. For supporters who live locally, why not pop in and see us with your hounds?

In September, October and December we have Hand Made Crafts, Woburn Sands, a small town just a couple of miles north of Woburn.

Our favourite events are the 2-day Christmas Gift and Craft Fairs in November run by Aztec Events at Brentwood Leisure Centre, and the Animal Shelter, Godmanchester (Nr Cambridge). The crowds and the atmosphere are amazing. We've been doing these events for 3 years and people now actively seek us out to see what we have to offer and drop off donations for Christmas.

*Continued...*



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.....and not forgetting St Augustine's Christmas Bazaar at my local church, also in November. Last year the stall was set up on Friday afternoon, when we returned on Saturday morning, there were little sold notes everywhere, half the stock had been sold before it had even started. Luckily we had cards to fall back on. As yet no date has been announced for this event, but it usually runs in mid-November.

Donations of greeting cards, whatever the occasion are always welcome. These as needed to build up a stock of cards waiting to be made into saleable items. Hope to see you at Stifford.

Pat Sheppard

### 40 YEARS OF REHOMING GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust has proudly turned 40 this year, and during that time we have found a staggering 70,000 homes for greyhounds. While we are proud of that achievement, we could not have done it without your support. To celebrate our Ruby Anniversary, we are holding many special activities and will soon send out a commemorative issue of Homer magazine.



Click [here](#) to find out more about these activities and find out about how you can support our year of celebration.

Retired Greyhound Trust

### BILLY (LISCULLANE BILLY)

There have been a number of Greyhounds there owners have said goodbye to is recent months but I wanted to mention Billy in the newsletter because he was my first Greyhoundhomer sponsor dog, and he was one of those at our then kennels at Ockendon when I first started walking the Greyhounds at weekends. Billy was rehomed by Tony & Maureen, and has spent many happy years with them and their other dogs. During this time he travelled the country with them on holidays, including a trip to North Devon where I dog sat him whilst they were out on longer walks.

During his racing career Billy ran a huge number of races, 176 in total I believe.

A great Greyhound that will be sorely missed. RIP Billy.

Mark Wilson



**Billy (Liscullane Billy)**  
06/10/2001 – 18/03/2015



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### ELAINE ON HER WORK AT BISHOPS STORTFORD

We have had another good year here rehoming Greyhounds. We have had some lovely dogs come in and then go to their new loving homes. Sadly poor Speedy is still here and he was such a hero over Christmas. On Christmas Eve I had a phone call from a local vets asking if they could borrow one of my dogs here as a blood donor as they had a dog that was critically ill. Speedy was the dog chosen to go to the vets where I left him to donate his blood. He had charmed everybody at the vets by the time I picked him up and I was told that there is a very lucky Cocker Spaniel that was able to enjoy their Christmas presents and also is having fun in 2015.

I have been very lucky as I now have a lad from Writtle College helping me out with the work in the kennels on Mondays and Wednesdays for work experience. His name is Matt and he absolutely adores Greyhounds being an owner of 2 himself. He really enjoys interacting with the dogs here and it helps the Greyhounds who are a bit scared of men to realise they are nice kind people.

I have had my volunteers here helping with fund raising for Greyhoundhomer which I am very thankful for.

Here's hoping 2015 will be another good year for us with rehoming these beautiful dogs.

**If you are interested in giving a Greyhound a home from our kennels at Bishops Stortford the give Elaine a call on 01279 501 899.**

### CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A HOME AT BISHOPS STORTFORD



Jamie



Gonzo



Ramona



Ra ra



Paddy



Speedy





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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)  
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[www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk](http://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 . Cheryl Hart  
Louise Chick . Edgar Munns . Millie &  
Norman Stevens . Dave Soady . Helen  
& Chris Daguiar . Pia van Pragh

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.