

FORWARD

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Summer 2010

An international partnership

meet Maggie Galbarczyk and guide dog Ingmar

Meet Richard Leaman

Guide Dogs' new Chief Executive

A new arrival for fundraising

life-sized collection box
makes its debut



Guide Dogs



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Guide Dogs

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Please recycle this magazine



Richard's welcome

Welcome to the Summer issue of *Forward*.

Let me start by thanking all of you for making me feel so very welcome in my first few weeks at Guide Dogs. I have been travelling around the UK meeting staff and volunteers, both from Guide Dogs – and some of the other organisations we work alongside – and each and every one of you has hugely impressed me with your commitment and passion for your work.

As you will see later in this edition, I have visited Tollgate, Leamington, and Atherton, Dogs for Disabled, RNIB and Vision 2020, as well as attending the 'Guide to Services' launch and the 'Talking Buses' parliamentary reception. I have also experienced a blindfold walk, giving me just a taste of the challenges that blind and partially sighted people face trying to get around and live normally. I now know, from first hand experience, what a truly outstanding organisation Guide Dogs is and how, every day, we dramatically change people's lives. I feel genuinely hugely privileged to have been asked to lead such an amazing organisation.

Over the next few months and years, my overriding priority is to ensure that we deliver the best possible mobility support for many more blind and partially sighted people. There is much work to be done to ensure this happens and of course it would not be remotely possible without the incredible selfless support we get from our volunteers. I look forward to meeting more of you in the months ahead and hearing your views and ideas.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Forward*, particularly the articles on fundraising and campaigning where I know you all play a vital role.



Richard Leaman with guide dog puppy Wren

Guide Dogs News

A royal opening at Atherton



Puppy walker Jan Harker and Puppy Walking Supervisor Sue Cole meet HRH Princess Alexandra

The Guide Dog Training School Atherton has been open for business for over a year, but its official opening, attended by the charity's patron, HRH Princess Alexandra, took place in May.

Accompanied by Chief Executive Richard Leaman and Chairman Tony Aston, Her Royal Highness took a tour of the kennels, before unveiling a plaque, and then spent time meeting staff and volunteers. Among them were Jean Berisford, who has looked after 102 retired

Making a difference

"I recently lost my guide dog and did not know who to turn to. I called the STEP service and spoke to a lovely listener who was very understanding and let me express my emotions. It's an excellent service, I wish it had been there when I lost my previous dogs."

These are the words of one grateful user of Guide Dogs'

guide dogs over 30 years, Kate Summerfield, who is currently walking her 36th puppy, and Tony and Ruth Warrington, who have been both fundraisers and puppy walkers since 1979.

Dog Care and Welfare Manager Pam Trewick said: "It was a great honour to have our patron open the site and she took a real interest in both the state-of-the-art facilities and the staff and volunteers, who work so hard to ensure we deliver top quality guide dogs."

confidential listening service, set up to support guide dog owners after the death or retirement of their guide dog. 14 more volunteer listeners – all guide dog owners themselves – are attending a rigorous training and assessment programme to increase the number of listeners available.

Call STEP on **0845 372 7474** – calls are answered 8am to 10pm.

Technowatch – gadget reviews made easy

Guide Dogs is launching a unique central resource for blind and partially sighted people listing technologies and products from around the world to assist with mobility.

The online 'one stop shop' will enable people to make informed choices when researching and purchasing gadgets. Not only will each gadget be listed with a description, price and contact details, there will also be reviews and ratings provided by blind and partially sighted people. In future, the website will list research papers on emerging technologies that may result in new products. Product categories are:

- **Wayfinding** – which guide a visually impaired person through their environment and use satellite navigation.

- **Obstacle detection** – using ultrasonic or laser sensors on white canes or other devices to enable the user to avoid obstacles.

- **Remote activated signs** – which give the user information about the surrounding environment.

Users can read about the products and any reviews. By registering on the site, you can add a review and rating. Registered users can also add new products and research.

To find out more, visit **www.guidedogs.org.uk/technowatch**.

Work begins on new National Breeding Centre

Building work has begun on Guide Dogs' new National Breeding Centre in Bishops Tachbrook, Leamington Spa.

Contractors started work at the end of February on the state-of-the-art centre, which will be a flagship site for Guide Dogs, complete with visitor and educational facilities.

Guide Dogs will continue to operate from its current Tollgate House site, adjacent to the National Breeding Centre, until building work finishes in the summer of 2011.

Carol Warner, National Breeding Centre Operations Project Manager, said: "We're delighted with this new development which

will significantly contribute towards our aim to help more blind and partially sighted people get about independently. The new facilities will be fantastic for dogs, staff, volunteers and visitors."

Tony Fitzgerald, Project Manager at West Midlands-based construction company Morgan Ashurst, said: "We're really excited to have started work on this landmark project for Guide Dogs." He added: "On all our projects we are keen to minimise our carbon footprint and we'll be incorporating a host of environmentally-friendly features into the building such as renewable energy sources, including a biomass boiler and rainwater harvesting."



Carol Warner, National Breeding Centre Operations Project Manager and Tony Fitzgerald, Morgan Ashurst's Project Manager

Eye to Eye – a unique conference for young people with a visual impairment

Eye to Eye, the first conference of its kind in the UK, aims to bring together families and professionals to improve support and services for young people with a visual impairment.

Co-hosted by Guide Dogs and the National Blind Children's Society on 28–29 October 2010 in Birmingham, the conference connects young people with a visual impairment and their families with professionals from the clinical, social and education fields. It provides a unique opportunity for all parties to learn, exchange information, and discover what the real issues facing youngsters with visual impairment are today.

Tom Muldowney, Guide Dogs' Head of Development said: "Our research shows that isolation is a key feature of life for a young person with sight loss. For parents, the issue is a lack of support, for the professionals, it's all about resources, both human and financial. What's so important about this conference is that it gives us a chance to get parents and professionals together in the same place as blind and partially sighted children and young people, helping us all to see eye to eye."

To book a place, and for more information, including full details of speakers and workshops, visit www.eyetoeyekonference.com or call **0118 983 8253**.

Looking forward to Guide Dog Week

Guide Dog Week 2010 will focus on ‘extraordinary partnerships’ and run from Saturday October 2 until Sunday October 10. It is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the partnerships that make Guide Dogs a life-changing charity.

As well as sharing the amazing stories of our guide dog partnerships, we’ll also be spotlighting the invaluable work of our volunteers and our groundbreaking collaborative work with other charities. With so much to shout about, this year Guide Dog Week will last nine days – plenty of time for everyone to join in the celebrations!

Richard Leaman, Chief Executive said: “This is my first Guide Dog Week since joining the organisation and I will be leading from the front to ensure every single member of staff gets out of their normal workplace to meet guide dog owners and volunteers, and help make Guide Dog Week 2010 our biggest and best ever.”

It’s a fair cop



Shane Parker, Thelma Somers-Holt and Guide Dogs’ Information Officer for the South East Sue Rowen with her guide dog Layla

Local guide dog owners have been working with Essex Police Training College, helping out in role plays on training days.

Guide Dogs is part of a Community Training Action Group, which has representatives from a range of local groups. The Essex Police Training

College asks members to volunteer for the roleplays, which take place towards the end of the student officers’ training.

Recently guide dog owner Barbara Roberts played the part of a victim who has had her purse stolen while waiting outside a shop in a local shopping centre. The student officers then had to interview her, with an assessor observing. She explains: “The officers were always kind and considerate, but obviously a bit unsure how to question someone with sight loss.”

Guide Dogs’ Information Officer for the South East, Sue Rowen, speaking on behalf of Barbara and fellow guide dog owner volunteers June Maylin and Jane Pennick, said: “We all found it an enjoyable and rewarding experience, and the feedback we’ve had from the college and the student officers has been extremely positive. We’re sure the trainees will remember the experience when dealing with visually impaired people in the future and will feel confident in communicating with them.”

Puppies on the buses

A national scheme, thought to be the only one of its kind in the UK, to help Guide Dogs train its guide dog puppies, was relaunched in Bristol in February. The scheme allows puppy walkers to travel for free on all First buses in the UK while training their puppies.

Learning about buses, and bus stations, is a core part of guide dog training. Thanks to the scheme, volunteer puppy walkers can take their puppies out by bus as many times as necessary, so dogs are accustomed to different sights, sounds and smells.

The free travel scheme saves Guide Dogs significant sums of money every year. Leon Daniels, First UK Bus’ Communication and Customer Service Director, said: “We are pleased that we’re able to play our part in helping to ensure that guide dogs can be trained effectively, and that we can save the charity money at the same time. We are committed to removing barriers for all disabled people, and we are working hard to ensure that all of our customers, regardless of disability, can travel as frequently as they wish to do so.”



Puppy walker Isobel Cooper with Kaylea and First bus driver Steve Mellen

Be a part of Guide Dog Training School Forfar

Individuals and groups are being encouraged to sponsor a brick in Guide Dog Training School Forfar's Wall of Support – and Lamont Forbes MBE, one of the school's key volunteers, has helped kick-start the process by donating the first gold inscribed brick.

To raise the £1,500 for his brick, Lamont put his musical talents to good use by playing his keyboard, singing and telling stories at a variety of events.

The Wall of Support will be built within a sensory garden that can be enjoyed by all those coming to the school.

Bricks come in two sizes, with inscriptions in bronze, silver or gold, and prices range from £500

to £3,000. If you would like to be a part of Forfar's Wall of Support, call **0845 372 7315** or email **funraisingsc@guidedogs.org.uk**.

Forfar is already welcoming visitors on its group tours, which aim to show the public the state-of-the-art facilities and reveal some of the skill and dedication needed to transform a cute little puppy into a dependable working guide dog. Young dogs come to the training school when they are about 12–14 months and learn skills such as walking in a straight line, stopping at kerbs and judging height and width.

Visits to the school are free, and can accommodate groups of up to 40 people. For more information, call **0845 372 7315**.



Lamont Forbes MBE with guide dog puppy Quaid

Travis Trek 6 – 'the Legends return'

Intrepid trekkers Scott Cunningham and his guide dog Travis – from Larkhall, South Lanarkshire – have completed their sixth mammoth trek, striding towards a £100,000 fundraising target for Guide Dogs.

Accompanied by former Rangers stars, known as the Ibrox Legends, and members of the Royal Marine Commandos, Scott and Travis tackled the West Highland Way in some atrocious weather.

At times facing waist-deep snow and sleet, Travis sensibly travelled in the support vehicle, leaving Scott to be guided by his partner, Helen.

Scott says: "With £85,000 raised from my previous treks, our aim this year is to break the £100,000 barrier. When we started I never dreamed we could raise so much for Guide Dogs. But over 500 miles later, averaging 100 miles a trek, I'm confident we can reach this fundraising landmark, and in doing so, show the world how remarkable the partnership is between guide dog and owner."

Scott has been shortlisted for an Institute of Fundraising National Award. Julie Millar from Guide Dogs' Scottish fundraising team said: "We are so proud and grateful to Scott and Travis for their incredible support. If anyone deserves national recognition for dedicated charity fundraising over a number of years, it's Scott!"



Scott and Helen Cunningham, guide dog Travis and supporters on the Bridge of Orchy

Correction

- In an article about guide dog owner Marcus Rawlings in the last edition of *Forward*, we incorrectly stated that people who have lost their sight must wait two years to apply for a guide dog. In fact there is no set period, and anyone who feels that a guide dog might be the right option for them, should contact their local district team, regardless of when the sight loss occurred.

A fitting tribute

John Moorhouse was a keen dog lover and very fond of his black Labrador, Charlie. So when he died of a brain haemorrhage in 2006, aged 74, his wife Ann wanted to do something special in his honour, and it was his love of dogs that inspired her to set up a Guide Dogs Tribute Fund.



Ann and John Moorhouse

Ann explains: "I decided to try and raise £5,000 to name a puppy in his memory. Each time I added to the Fund, and then received a letter from Guide Dogs, it was like I was being encouraged along the way.

"I didn't know how long it would take to raise the money, but was really pleased when I'd achieved it! I've done lots of different things: my tennis club gave a donation in return for me keeping the clubhouse spick and span; I had a book stall at our local Friday market and a raffle at Christmas; a very kind neighbour asked for donations to the Fund instead of 70th birthday presents; and every Sunday morning, I do a car boot sale. My friends are so pleased to have a good clear-out, especially knowing that it's for such a good cause!"

Since the Tribute Fund was set up, sadly Labrador Charlie has died, so Ann decided to commemorate Charlie's memory by adding his name to the Fund. Ann has been so busy fundraising for Guide Dogs that she has been able to name four puppies – Charlie, Ben, Sandy and Pip! Ann says: "John and I had many happy years together, and the Tribute Fund has been the perfect way of keeping his and Charlie's memory alive."

Since the Guide Dogs Tribute Fund scheme began in 2004, 161 Funds have been opened, helping to raise over £760,000 for Guide Dogs. Tribute Funds are special named Funds set up to commemorate a loved one, to which friends and family can contribute at any time. Many

people use the Funds to raise £5,000 to 'Name a Puppy' in memory of their loved one.

Supporters of the Funds raise money in lots of different ways, from making donations at special times of the year such as birthdays or anniversaries, to organising fundraising events with friends and family and sponsorship activities.

For further information about Tribute Funds, contact **Joette Emerton** on **0118 983 8385** or visit **www.giftsinmemory.org.uk**.



Ann and Charlie

Learning about Guide Dogs

New Chief Executive Richard Leaman gets out and about to meet staff, volunteers and clients across the UK.



Supporting our Talking Buses campaign's parliamentary reception with guide dog owner Jill Allen-King MBE



Meeting staff at the Guide Dog Training School Leamington



Learning about dog care and welfare from Robert Coop in Dog Care at Atherton



Seeing the hydrotherapy bath in action with Pam Trewick, Dog Care and Welfare Manager, and Fiona Rybowski, Dog Care at Atherton



Meeting guests at the launch of the Guide to Services in London



Meeting puppy walker Dave Astin and Quinn at the Guide Dog Training School Atherton



Learning about accessibility with Roger Whitton from the Assistive Technology Team



Taking a blindfold walk with a guide dog in Leamington, accompanied by Guide Dog Mobility Instructors Nicola Brown and Adele Barnes

A day in the life of...

a Technical Canine Research Worker

Interview by Eifion Rees

Rachel Moxon is a Technical Canine Research Worker based at Tollgate, near Leamington Spa. She is 28 and lives with partner Ian near Southam in Warwickshire. After studying for a degree in animal science at Nottingham Trent University, she spent a year in Kentucky doing equine research, before joining Guide Dogs in January 2008.

Technical Canine Research Workers are responsible for general canine research into dog health and wellbeing. Attention is focused on areas of research that help increase the effectiveness of our breeding programme. Other duties include reporting on the progress of current research, training and mentoring students, and identifying further research opportunities.

I wake up at 6.45am to feed the dog – my bran flakes and I come second. At the moment I'm looking after Rhanna, a year old German Shepherd who's waiting to be rehomed. After a half-hour walk we'll jump into my yellow 1975 VW Beetle and drive to Tollgate.

Arriving between 8.30–9am, the first thing I do is wait for my computer to boot up. Then I put on my white lab coat and get to work. My first job is inputting data for a presentation to the International Guide Dog Federation conference on a study into how management techniques affect puppy survival rates.

Research requests are presented to the Canine Research Planning Group for approval, so I may work up a proposal, identifying how research should be carried out.

If research has been approved, I'll start gathering samples to study in the lab or collecting data to input into a spreadsheet to check for statistical differences.

Next I might write up a report on other findings, feeding back to whoever requested the research, along with the Canine Research Planning Group, so any changes to working practices can be made.

If it's a study into disease in breeding stock, I'll look at some initial data such as how many of our breeding stock are affected, or how many of their siblings or puppies have it.

Sometimes veterinary students from the University of Nottingham come in for their third year research projects, so I may show them how to collect and analyse samples.

I look forward to lunch if it isn't a boring sandwich I've made! Occasionally some of the Dog Care and Welfare staff take a trip to the local chippy and bring me back something nice.

In the afternoon I may join a conference call with the Canine Research Working Group or Planning Group to discuss a report and current or future research projects.



Next I'll ensure our research is up to speed, checking external journals and reviews – it's all about looking after the health and welfare of the dogs so they enjoy long, happy working lives.

Researching how DNA damage is related to fertility, I'll analyse semen samples under a microscope, then prepare them as glass slide smears to send to the University of Sheffield for DNA testing.

I generally finish around 5pm, not forgetting Rhanna, who's been in the kennels with her friends for the day. I'm sitting down most of the day so I want to be active in the evenings. I play badminton, horse ride and help out on a charity horse show committee.

Bedtime is 9.30–10pm, when I love to curl up with a good book – at the moment it's Terry Pratchett's 'Unseen Academicals'.

A garden for Guide Dogs

A garden designed to illustrate the needs of visually impaired people will soon be on show...



Guide Dogs is entering a show garden at BBC Gardeners' World Live 2010 to publicise difficulties regularly faced by blind and partially sighted people.

Created by award-winning designer Tracy Foster, The Guide Dogs Garden provides space for guide dogs to demonstrate their skills in an attractive 'real' garden setting.

Guide Dogs' staff and volunteers will be educating visitors about the top 10 hazards for blind and partially sighted people, such as overhanging branches which can

cause injury, badly parked cars and wheelie bins that may force the dog and handler into the road.

"Styled as an urban front garden, the design illustrates situations on our streets that guide dogs and their handlers have to negotiate, and how we could be more considerate to their needs," explains Tracy. "The planting is simple, stylish and safe for dogs, and appealing through touch and smell to add interest for those with impaired vision."

Besides raising awareness of visual impairment, how will the garden fare in competition? "We'd

love to win a medal, but that's not our main objective," says Guide Dogs Corporate Events Manager Jackie Potter. "We believe Gardeners' World Live provides the opportunity to engage with an entirely new audience who may not be familiar with Guide Dogs and the amazing work we do to improve mobility for blind and partially sighted people."

You can see the garden at Stand GA23 at BBC Gardeners' World Live, NEC, Birmingham, from 16–20 June. For further information, visit www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com.

go walkies with Oatie

for Guide Dogs

Meet Oatie the mascot for 'go walkies for Guide Dogs' events, which have been sweeping the nation this summer. Oatie, who retired as a guide dog when he went blind in one eye, has been gathering support for the sponsored dog walks since they launched in April.

Lots of dogs have already taken their owners on one of the sponsored walks in aid of their guide dog friends. Oatie has been to his local walk in Reading, near Guide Dogs' Head Office, with his owner Tim Guttridge and Tim's wife Elaine. Tim said: "Elaine and I have always been involved with fundraising for our local branch in Reading and Oatie is often called upon to draw in the crowds.

"Oatie is such a friendly and happy dog with everyone he meets that we were not surprised that he was chosen to star as the face of 'go walkies for Guide Dogs'."



Sponsor Oatie at www.virginmoneygiving.com/gowalkies

'go walkies for Guide Dogs' events are taking place up and down the country – visit www.gowalkies.org.uk for more information. Here's a selection of events you can join:

26 June – Eyes Meadow, Duffield, Derbyshire. This event will run in conjunction with Duffield Carnival on Saturday afternoon, which is an annual event.

4 July – Reigate Hill, Surrey. Meet at 11am for a summer walk complete with free parking and refreshments.

21 August – Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. There will be two routes, a short and long route. Registration opens at 10am and the walk will start at 11am.



A new arrival for fundraising

The birth of every future guide dog is an exciting event but this one is extra special – and with the original conception back in August last year and a delivery date 12 months later, you would certainly be right in saying it’s unique!

In fact this guide dog will be arriving complete with two pups of her own, and she will be joining a long line of guide dogs, big and small, which have stood inside and outside shops and other public places, helping to raise funds for the charity. She’s set to become one of the most well known and loved symbols representing Guide Dogs.

So, not an actual, live guide dog but our brand new life-sized collection box!

As you will see from the photo, although some of the finer details may have changed, Guide Dogs’ collection boxes remain instantly recognisable over the years. Last year, however, we re-launched the counter-top collection box and, since then, we have been developing the new life-sized version in order to modernise the design.

This has involved collaboration between staff from fundraising, marketing and operations and volunteers. To produce the new design Guide Dogs has worked in conjunction with Louis Kennedy, a company that operates across the third sector, and has been instrumental in the success of Red Nose Day for Comic Relief and Pudsey Bear for BBC Children in Need. With Guide Dogs it has produced a number of other fundraising resources including

miniature plush puppies, counter-top collection boxes and ‘go walkies’ for Guide Dogs’ dog tags.

A lot of time and attention has been put into getting the design right, with durability being particularly important – for example, painted eyes rather than plastic inserted ones, which are more realistic and less likely to be damaged and a harness that is moulded into the design. There is a funnel system inside the dogs to collect the money, which means coins won’t get stuck, and a metal drawer



Counter-top collection box

to collect the money in the base, making it easier to empty, and, again, more durable.

To get to the point where the collection box can be manufactured has also been an extensive process and has involved:

“The life-sized dog collection boxes are a tremendous source of income to Guide Dogs and their iconic design is part of our history. Modernising the design has been an exciting process – I look forward to seeing them in our local shops and high streets”

Beth Marsh, Head of Fundraising Development

- The drawing of the initial design.
- The production of a more detailed technical drawing including the new drawer mechanism.
- A small clay model being made followed by a painted silicon version.
- This model was then sent to the factory where it was scanned to construct a digital, 3D model which was scaled up to the full-sized version to create a master mould.
- A final proof being made from the master mould.

Vital statistics

- Painted fibreglass.
- Metal collection drawer in the base.
- Height 80cm, width 50cm and depth 50cm.
- Weight approximately 10kg.
- The drawer can hold up to 7,000 coins.



Can you help?

750 of the new collection boxes will be delivered in early autumn, and many have homes already. They need to be in places where lots of people pass by but, of course, not cause an obstruction. If you know of somewhere suitable, let us know. We also have counter-top collection boxes that need placing – call us on 0870 600 2323 or email collect@guidedogs.org.uk.

Do you have a story to tell about any of our collection boxes, past or present? If so, we'd love to hear from you! You can contact us on our facebook page at www.facebook.com/guidedogsUK or call 0870 600 2323.

Marathon success for Team Guide Dogs

Hundreds of people have been putting their best foot forward to raise thousands for Guide Dogs. Justine Harding finds out more...



Matthew Rhodes with guide Andy Brown and Steve Ovett, along with volunteer Keith Thake, dressed in the dog suit at the Brighton Marathon

Hundreds of supporters have completed the ultimate running challenge – a marathon. 510 runners made up Team Guide Dogs for the first ever Brighton Marathon and Guide Dogs, a charity partner for the event, fielded the second largest charity team. Despite 26.2 gruelling miles, runners finished with a smile, carried along by the electric atmosphere.

More than 100 Guide Dogs volunteers cheered on every runner from Team Guide Dogs – with many staying on to welcome 34-year-old former soldier, Matthew Rhodes, over the line almost 24 hours after the main race was completed.

Matthew, who is blind and paralysed down his right side following a motorcycle accident, was given permission to walk the 26.2 mile course over two

days to raise money for Guide Dogs and St Dunstan's, a charity providing life-long support to blind and visually impaired ex-service people. With his guide Andy Brown, an escort from ex-RAF policemen and a police motorcycle outrider for the final mile, he crossed the finish to a hero's welcome – including his guide dog Karlo. "The last two miles were the hardest," said Matthew. "It was sheer agony but there was no question of not completing the marathon."



Guide dog owner Theresa Robberts and her guide Carol Bayley at the Virgin London Marathon

Matthew raised more than £2,000 while Team Guide Dogs totalled over £250,000.

A week later, at the Virgin London Marathon, the Team Guide Dogs colours were out in force again. 231 runners faced the challenge of the world famous race, cheered on by Guide Dogs staff, volunteers and guide dog owners. "Every one of our runners became a celebrity at some point on the route," said Peter Emmett, Head of Events Fundraising. "The cry of 'go Guide Dogs' each time one of our vests was spotted was deafening!"

Among those getting the loudest cheers were David Boon, running blindfolded, led by friend David Hartley dressed as a guide dog, in order to raise £15,000. Runners were met by some guide dogs and puppies at the end of the race. "It's a chance for them to see the true value of the money they raise," explained Peter. A total of over £330,000 was raised at the Virgin London Marathon.

If you want to be part of Team Guide Dogs you can find out more at www.guidedogs.org.uk/go. "Whether you want to jog, do a 5k fun run or a marathon, we will support you every step of the way," said Peter. "If you are keen to run at next year's Brighton or London Marathons, Guide Dogs already has a limited number of guaranteed places available – so 'go Guide Dogs!'"

Guide Dogs ‘Get together’ a winning theme!



Thank you to our supporters who have been raising money with imagination, under our ‘Get together for Guide Dogs’ initiative. We hoped the themed fundraising would inspire you to join forces and do great things – it has!

Guide dog owner Richard Boggie got 175 people together for a night of fun and fundraising at the third Dog’s Dinner Ball in the Old Assembly Rooms, Newcastle. The evening included a champagne reception, three-course meal, and music from the Newcastle University Jazz Orchestra, a disco into the small hours, plus games, a tombola and

raffle. A staggering £5,700 was raised – enough to name a puppy and support it for its first year. The name will be chosen by the winner of the night’s grand draw. “It’s my way of saying ‘thank you’ to Guide Dogs,” said Richard.

Meanwhile, Norma and Derek Stent encouraged the people of Bath to ‘Get decluttering’ and support a week-long fundraising push for Guide Dogs. The couple spent months collecting unwanted clothes and household items, then with the help of the local council, they took over an unused shop in the city centre for one week, selling the goods to raise £5,440 for Guide Dogs. “From wardrobes

to knives, forks and a hamster cage – you name it, we sold it!” said Norma.



Guide dog owner Richard Boggie with guide dog Foley and Bruce Foster

Back to school for Guide Dogs!

Children across the UK will be learning more about the impact of sight loss as Guide Dogs goes to school...

School children across the UK are looking forward to Guide Dogs visiting this summer, and maybe a guide dog or puppy too. The ‘Guide Dogs at School’ initiative is kicking off for its second year, aiming to educate youngsters about the challenges of sight loss through tailored lessons and fun activities, while fundraising for Guide Dogs.

This year the scheme extends from primary schools to include nursery and secondary schools too, with resource packs designed for the needs of the National and Scottish Curriculums, and for Welsh speakers. The secondary

pack also tackles making technology accessible to people with visual impairments.

“It’s a great opportunity for schools to teach youngsters in a fun way about the effects of sight loss, while delivering the curriculum and having fun,” says Beth Marsh, Head of Fundraising Development. “As well as developing empathy for others, children can raise money for Guide Dogs, or split it with their school. It is a win-win situation and a way of ensuring support for our charity from future generations.”

Classroom activities include pouring water into a cup

blindfolded, and discovering how visually impaired people manage tasks such as matching their clothes, as well as the option of a visit from a guide dog or pup.

If you know a school that would like to get involved, it’s not too late – simply visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/guidedogsatschool or call **0870 600 2323**.



MPs get on board with Talking Buses

Guide Dogs' Talking Buses campaign has been our most successful yet in terms of winning support from the government. More than a third of all MPs signed our Early Day Motion (EDM), and 51 MPs and three Lords attended our reception at the House of Commons in March.

We want regulations changed so every bus in the UK gives passengers audible as well as visible information about the next stop and final destination. This will enable blind and partially sighted people to use buses independently and with confidence.

In order to push the issue to the top of the political agenda we have briefed central and

regional government, highlighting the benefits to all passengers and reminding them of their responsibility to make public transport accessible to everyone. Our 700 campaign supporters helped us by lobbying their MPs. As a result, we have had 232 MPs sign EDM 506, which is calling for the regulation to be changed, putting it in the top 10 of all EDMs tabled this year.

In a survey carried out by YouGov for Guide Dogs, 66 per cent of people said bus travel would be easier if there were on-board announcements about where the bus is going and what stop is coming up.

Over 100 MPs, civil servants, transport industry executives, bus manufacturers and representatives from disability organisations attended our parliamentary reception to learn about Talking Buses and discuss the issues.

After a pause during the election period, campaigning has resumed in earnest. Blind and partially sighted people are still experiencing stressful bus journeys, relying on others to tell them where they are, and risking danger by getting off at the wrong stop. We won't stop until this changes!

www.guidedogs.org.uk/talkingbuses

Research round-up

The health and wellbeing of our dogs, and the quality of their work, is constantly being strengthened by the activities of Guide Dogs' canine research team.

Recent projects looked at:

- the effect of changing handlers during training on dogs' learning abilities, and how to lessen the impact of this;
- ways of identifying, preventing and treating a condition in dogs that is similar to Alzheimer's disease in humans;
- the quantities of food offered to dogs at our Guide Dog Training Schools, to ensure feeding is consistent;

- how our dogs are affected by firework noise during the period from bonfire night to new year, and ways in which any anxiety can be treated;
- human allergies to dogs and how the effects can be reduced.

Guide Dogs has also taken the exciting step of approving a five-year scientific research project, to be carried out at Nottingham University.

Two thirds of dogs rejected from Guide Dogs' training programme are withdrawn because of unsuitable behaviour. This project will analyse data on our dogs' behaviour to identify and test the genetic and environmental

factors that increase the likelihood of dogs being withdrawn for behavioural reasons.

We will then develop improved behavioural assessment processes that enable dogs with a higher likelihood of withdrawal to be identified early.

This should improve dog quality, be beneficial to dogs' wellbeing and save Guide Dogs significant costs and resources.

For more details contact Kate Neal, Research Assistant, on **0118 983 8189** or email **kate.neal@guidedogs.org.uk**.

Bed and breakfast for dogs

Did you know trainee guide dogs sometimes learn better if they're living in a home environment? This is just one reason why volunteer boarders play such a valuable role within the organisation.

Boarders offer dogs somewhere to live outside 'school' time during their final stages of training. The dogs learn about home life and Guide Dogs gets a chance to assess their temperament, making them easier to match to their eventual owners.

Mother-of-two Susan Thorp lives in central London and has boarded 13 dogs over three years. The Thorps got involved because

youngest son Max wanted a puppy. "I work at a school, so we couldn't have one full time, so at first we sponsored a puppy. Then one day a colleague brought in a dog he was boarding, and we've been involved ever since. Each one is different and a joy to have. The dogs learn about city life and my boys learn about responsibility!"

Most boarders do the 'school run' every weekday morning and evening – taking their dogs to the local Guide Dogs office and collecting them – but some benefit from a delivery service. "We're a small team and prefer to pick up and drop off the dogs ourselves," says Edinburgh Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Gavin Neate. "It's also a great way to stay in touch with boarders."

Avis Schofield and husband Graham live in Haddington, near Edinburgh. The couple are retired and have been boarders for three years, since seeing an advert in a local paper. Needing flexibility to visit family, they went for what Avis calls a 'win-win' arrangement.

"The dogs are fantastic and well trained, but it's great fun helping them through the small issues – one loved oven gloves and destroyed three pairs! It's sad seeing them go but they're going to do a fantastic job for their owners, and we always look forward to the next one."

Boarders since 2007, Sarah Dredge and husband Chris live near Shrewsbury and work full time. "As we're out of the house all day it would be unfair to keep a normal dog," Sarah says, "but guide dogs go to work just like we do. It's the best of both worlds. I used to work in the same building as Guide Dogs, so I'd drop the dog off at 9am then just walk upstairs to my office."

"Volunteer boarders make a fantastic contribution to the way we train our dogs," says Guide Dogs' Client Services Manager Oliver Barton. "The dogs enjoy the attention and social opportunities of domestic life, are more relaxed and so better able to learn. Boarders are a precious resource, and our thanks go out to them for the exceptional work they do."



Graham Schofield with guide dog Colt in Dawyck Botanic Garden near Peebles, Scotland

If you are interested in boarding, contact the National Volunteering Office on **0845 371 7771** or email **volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk**.

An international **partnership**

by Eifion Rees



Most people have heard about the American Dream, but Maggie Galbarczyk is living a very British one. She has been in the UK for the past nine months, pursuing her ambition to become a clinical psychologist – something that would not be possible in her home country of Poland.

“It is still very different for a blind person to find a job there, let alone a job in a profession like psychology,” the 29-year-old says. “So I moved to the UK.”

Maggie – whose first name is actually Malgorzata – works as an assistant NHS psychologist in Birmingham, and will graduate from the University of Lublin, in eastern Poland, in June. She chose to complete her MA in psychology in four years in order to devote a further 12 months to gaining practical experience – something else that would have been difficult back home.

“I don’t see blindness as a problem, it’s just one facet of me, like being Polish, having curly hair, being outgoing”

In fact, even being a guide dog owner has proved difficult there in the past. European law forbids it, but Maggie’s guide dog Ingmar has still been refused entry to Polish shops, supermarkets and churches, as well as the hospitals so important for her training. There are only a very few guide dogs in the country, and those there are do not always have the best reputation – a lack of facilities and breeding centres mean most are unruly, making them dangerous for their owners.

Which goes some way towards explaining why Ingmar hails from New York City. There for an operation on her eyes, Maggie applied to American organisation Guiding Eyes for the Blind to get him – inspired by the work of Guide Dogs in the UK.

“I’d wanted to have a guide dog since 2001, when I stayed with a British family who owned one and saw what a difference it could make to my life.”

Maggie has been blind since she was 16. Having been diagnosed with cataracts at birth and glaucoma aged three, she has undergone more than 30 surgical procedures to relieve painfully high pressure in her eyes. At the age of 15, a US charity – Right for Sight – run by a Polish ex-pat, flew her to New York for more medical treatment.

“My eyes couldn’t cope, though,” she recalls. “After one operation too many they haemorrhaged, and that was it. They were removed in 2005, but the sockets were so badly damaged they couldn’t cope with implants. I had my last operation a year later, to replace the implants with fat taken from my body.”

She is still in touch with the doctor who was operating on her when she went blind, who is also the director of Right for Sight. He attended her graduation with Ingmar, still upset Maggie had lost her vision but pleased to see her getting a guide dog – the next best thing.

“As for me, I don’t see blindness as a problem,” says Maggie. “It’s just one facet of me, like being Polish, having curly hair, being outgoing. I have many characteristics, some of which I might choose to change, but not this one. That’s a psychologist’s answer for you!”



Hailing from Wroclaw, Poland’s fourth largest city, it was important that Maggie and Ingmar were able to work together in a similar environment. An intensive 26 days

The photographs of Maggie and Ingmar in this issue of *Forward* were taken at The Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TR.

The Editor would like to thank Chairman James Wheeler and Vena Middleton for their kind permission to use the gardens. To find out more and view a diary of events, visit www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk.

of training took place in bustling Manhattan, with additional work carried out in Poland.

“They had to be sure that he was the right dog for me,” she says. “I had a chance to learn about communicating with him and with other people, making sure I was being safe, learning how to care for him and how to be a guide dog owner – it was about training me as well as the dog.”

Guiding Eyes undertook several follow-up meetings with the pair, both in the US and in Poland. Now Maggie is resident in the UK she feels happy being looked after by Guide Dogs.

“It was stressful dealing with certain problems in Poland, trying

to find places that would accept Ingmar, but now I’m much more relaxed. I’m well supported by Guide Dogs, and feel much safer to know I can call any time and receive the help I need.”

In terms of the differences in training, Maggie says there are very few – in order to have coped with so many transitions, Ingmar has had to be exceptional, and her Guide Dogs contacts have been impressed.

“The main difference is that I was trained to walk with a symbol cane as well – guide dogs do not have the same association in Poland, so it was about letting drivers know I was blind. In this country I still use it to locate the button to cross the road, which they don’t

have in Poland – Ingmar has not been trained to find them. Apart from that I would say he is a true international guide dog.”

The six-year-old yellow Labrador may have been able to accommodate himself quickly to every new environment, and still retain his laid back and relaxed attitude, but he’s no pushover.

“In Poland we say ‘quiet water’ – you wouldn’t guess to look at



him that he has such a strong personality,” says Maggie. “He is patient and quiet during the hours I spend at university or working with patients, but for example when it’s raining he will stubbornly sit at every bus stop we pass – I need to persuade him that unfortunately we’re walking! That independence is also a benefit. There are still some places in Birmingham I don’t understand very well. I don’t know how he does it but he always finds his way, even if he’s only been there once before. He sometimes remembers the way better than I do. During training I was told it would be better for him to master certain routes and change them as little as possible, as it would

be difficult for him to learn things over and over again. Ingmar has proved them wrong, though.”

He also loves flying – during Maggie’s many trips back to Poland to visit her family he goes to sleep as though he were on a bus. If only the budget airline the pair use could be so relaxed about his presence: despite having made the trip many times, there always appears to be some trouble flying back to the UK.

In addition to her academic work, Maggie also loves swimming, tandem bike rides, trips to the country and visits to the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, which she says provides well for non-sighted visitors. Reading is also a great passion –

she studied British Contemporary Literature before setting out on the path to becoming a clinical psychologist.

“My favourite authors are Virginia Woolf and Sylvia Plath, but I also love William Faulkner. American authors have a very specific approach to the world – for them the American Dream still exists, which I find very positive. I believe it, because I have my British Dream.

“Here, I have opportunities I wouldn’t have back home. When you really want to, you can achieve just about anything. With Ingmar, and the support of Guide Dogs and other organisations, it’s possible for me to go out and do whatever I feel like doing.”

“With Ingmar, and the support of Guide Dogs and other organisations, it’s possible for me to go out and do whatever I feel like doing”



You've got a friend...

Guide Dogs is piloting a new 'buddy dog' service which would allow us to bring greater independence and mobility to more blind and partially sighted people across the UK.

The service is targeted towards people who could benefit from having a dog to increase their confidence and wellbeing. Buddy dogs will also be used to provide companionship and support to our clients beyond guide dog ownership, and to assess whether a dog would be a suitable mobility aid for prospective guide dog owners.

Twenty buddy dog partnerships will be involved in the 12-month pilot to determine whether Guide Dogs launches the service in future.

The partnerships will be carefully selected from existing contacts, and measures will be in place to monitor the welfare of both the dogs and recipients. Members of the public cannot apply at this pilot stage.

■ **Young people's buddy dog:** Placed with families with a blind or partially sighted young person under 16, who takes on some responsibility for it. The dog could be used to assess their suitability for future guide dog ownership.

■ **Young people's buddy dog within a specialist school or unit:** Placed with a teacher or professional working with blind and partially sighted young people in a specialist school or unit.

■ **Team assessment buddy dog:** Placed with a member of Guide Dogs staff, who uses it to develop the skills of potential guide dog applicants and assess their suitability for guide dog ownership.

■ **Adult's buddy dog:** Placed with 'retired' or existing guide dog owners.

The dogs used will be those who have been withdrawn from training or working, or may have retired – but who have the right skills and temperament.

The buddy dog service supports our strategy by preparing people for guide dog ownership and developing their confidence to be able to find the right mobility services. It also maintains our life-long commitment to clients and dogs.

For more information, email **sian.caine-southward@guidedogs.org.uk** or **graham.kensett@guidedogs.org.uk**.

Guide Dog of the Year – enter now!

Guide dogs can have a remarkable effect on someone's life – does your guide dog, or a guide dog you know, deserve to be named Guide Dog of the Year 2010? This year, the three finalists' stories will be featured in *Woman's Weekly* magazine.

Three categories:

Beyond the Call of Duty – for dogs that have performed a heroic act, or helped their owner avoid a dangerous situation.

Life Changing – for dogs who have given their owners the mobility and confidence to take on a new challenge.

Outstanding Work – for dogs whose work is exceptional – mastering complex skills.

How to nominate

Online: www.guidedogs.org.uk/awards

Write: (maximum 500 words) to Hannah Robertson, Guide Dogs, Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3YG.

Telephone: Hannah Robertson
0118 983 8266.

Tell us: the category you are nominating in and why; your name, address, phone number, and the name of the guide dog and owner (if it is not you).

A panel of judges will select a winner in each category, before the overall Guide Dog of the Year 2010 is chosen. Winners will be announced in September.

Nominated dogs must be qualified and expected still to be working in September 2010. For full terms and conditions, visit **www.guidedogs.org.uk**.

Closing date: 23 June 2010

Competition

Test your knowledge with this internationally themed quiz and win yourself a cool bag, perfect for picnics on hot summer days.

1. Which is the smallest county in England?
2. Mount Rushmore is located in which US state?
3. The Minoan palace 'Knossos' is located on which Greek island?
4. Sake is traditionally drunk in which Asian country?
5. The Large Hadron Collider is located near which European city?
6. Ktata Tjunta in Australia's Northern Territory is also known by what name?
7. The pizza was first invented in which Italian city?
8. Sugar Loaf Mountain stands high above which city in Brazil?
9. What is the name of Gaudi's famous Spanish church that is still under construction?
10. Which country is known as the "Rainbow nation?"

Once you have answered all the questions, tell us the sport related theme of the quiz.

Answers to Spring Forward competition:

1. Mushrooms 2. West Yorkshire 3. Breadcrumbs 4. Quince 5. Choux 6. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier 7. A la carte 8. Blackcurrants 9. Cacao tree

Send your answer to *Forward Competition*, Guide Dogs, Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3YG, email forward@guidedogs.org.uk or call **0118 983 8138**. Entries must reach us by 15 July 2010.

Congratulations to **June Panton** from Leeds who wins a luxury box of Hotel Chocolat champagne truffles for her entry to our Spring competition.



Caption competition



Thank you to **David Newman**, friend of guide dog owner **Anna Lawson** who sent in this photo of guide dog **Yarna** enjoying herself on a farm break. Can you think of a caption?

Congratulations

The Spring caption competition winner was **Janice Greaves** from Lichfield. The winning caption was: **"What brrr...eed are you?"**

Janice wins a £10 Marks and Spencer voucher.

To enter, please write your answer on a postcard and send it to Hannah South, *Forward Competition*, Guide Dogs, Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3YG.

You can also enter by email forward@guidedogs.org.uk or telephone **0118 983 8138**. Entries must reach us by 15 July 2010. The prize is a £10 Marks and Spencer voucher.

Competition rules

The competitions are open to anyone resident in the UK, except employees of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, their families and anyone connected with the competition. No purchase necessary. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, damaged or mislaid or wrongly delivered. Illegible entries will be disqualified. Only one original entry is allowed per envelope. The winners will be notified by either post or telephone and the results will be published in the next issue of the magazine. The winners must agree to the publication of their names, photographs and any publicity, if requested. In all matters concerning the competitions the Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of the rules. The closing date for these competitions is 15 July 2010.

Thank you to our supporters



Jersey Branch's signature event 'The Biggest Book Sale' raised an amazing £23,385. Now in its sixteenth year, the book sale was held at the Royal Jersey Showground with over 30,000 books up for sale along with a number of rare books placed in a silent auction for bids. Children from Mont Nicolle School ran a stall selling bookmarks to further boost the fundraising total.

Blackburn and District Branch visited the **Queens Lodge Nursing Home** and manned a trading stall to raise over £1,187 for Guide Dogs.



Staff from Queens Lodge Nursing Home with Guide Dogs supporters

Millie and **Ella Sparrow** and their best friends **Harriett** and **Francesa Shaw** have raised £70 for Guide Dogs by selling buns, cakes and biscuits after school – selling out within minutes of setting up their stall.

Millie and Ella have also raised over £300 for Guide Dogs by organising a collection of old mobile phones and ink cartridges at their school, Hoyle Court Primary in Baildon, West Yorkshire. Their most recent event for Guide Dogs was a sponsored bike ride along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, along with their parents, which raised another £300. Well done girls!



Ella, Francesca, Millie and Harriet, Val Sherred with guide dog Una, Head Teacher Lynda Florence and guide dog puppy Patch with puppy walker Jean Endersby

The Lion Walk Shopping Centre in Colchester raised over £1,454 for Guide Dogs by holding a concert organised by **Essex Police** and featuring their brass band. The centre has now reached the target to name a guide dog puppy.



Back row: Lion Walk Manager Paul Bentham, puppy walker Elaine Cole, Chief Superintendent Tim Newcomb, guide dog owner Sue Rowen and Sergeant Dave Gillies

Front row: Sergeant John Gemmell, Police Community Support Officer Jackie Tyrell and Sergeant Ian Jenkins and guide dogs Zeppellin and Layla

The **Tenby and Pembrokeshire Branch** celebrated its 34th anniversary with a lunch at the Giltar Hotel, Tenby. Chairperson Anne Lillycrop presented flowers to the branch president, former guide dog owner Iris Roblin, who

recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday. Treasurer Alan Davies announced that £52,877 was raised by the branch in 2009 – the best year ever! District Fundraiser Allison Charles and Tom Pey, Director of Guide Dogs External Affairs, also added their thanks and congratulations.

The **Chippenham and Corsham Branch** recently held a dog walk. Over 60 people attended with over 20 dogs, including pet dogs, guide dog puppies, working guide dogs and several retired guide dogs. The group set out from Corsham Town FC and walked through the grounds of Corsham Court.

The first event of its kind in Corsham, organiser Janet Smith said: "It was fantastic to see all the dogs and their owners enjoying a Sunday morning stroll. The event was free and I'd like to thank Corsham Town FC, who allowed us to use their facility free of charge. We definitely want to do this again."



Janice Boswell with guide dog puppy Otis, Robin and Diana Mansfield with Diana's guide dog Venice, Alan and Shirley Fletcher with Alan's guide dog Joy and guide dog Croft

Hayley Neal, Chippenham Support Branch volunteer, took to the air to skydive for Guide Dogs and raised £350. Hayley said: "It

was lovely and sunny and I was very apprehensive and nervous. I really enjoyed the experience, even though as I neared the plane door, I thought to myself what am I doing!"



Hayley Neal on the way down

Kettering Branch had a trading stand at the World Conker Championships and were presented with a cheque for £2,000. The annual World Conker Championships are held in the village of Ashton near Oundle in Northamptonshire. Since 1965, conker players from around the world have gathered on the village green to compete for the world title. The first ever Conker Championships at the House of Commons between MPs and the press also raised over £107 for Guide Dogs.



District Fundraiser Chris Smith with stud dog Riever and members of molly dancing dance group Pig Dyke Molly, one of the attractions at the World Conker Championships in Ashton

Guide dog owner **Layton Fowler** and his guide dog Hovis recently met Her Royal Highness Princess

Anne at the opening of the housing complex he lives in at Swansea.



Layton Fowler and guide dog Hovis meet Her Royal Highness Princess Anne

Pupils at **Queen Elizabeth Grammar School** in Alford, Lincolnshire got creative with 10 pence coins and laid the Guide Dogs logo on the floor of their school hall. The school chose Guide Dogs as their 'Charity of the Year' and have raised £4,000 so far by holding a 24-hour bikeathon, a spring celebration concert and trading stalls at lunchtime. The school is currently aiming to raise another £1,000 to reach the £5,000 target to name a puppy. Well done everyone!



Guide Dogs' volunteer Peter Newsome and guide dog owner Val Liffen with pupils from Queen Elizabeth Grammar School

During their first year, **Stowmarket and District Branch** have been busy holding street collections, attending country fairs, seasonal markets, barbeques and giving talks. Local people have also contributed to the fundraising effort, including over £1,525 from Councillor

Poppy Robinson, who chose to support Guide Dogs during her year chairing the District Council.

Members of the **Ladies Sunshine Darts Team** raised £325 by holding darts evenings and a garden party. **Stowupland Church** raised over £187 at their carol concert and **Roella** and **Graham Trudgill** donated £100 from a book sale and coffee morning at their home. The branch members are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported them.



Ladies of the Sunshine Darts Team

The **16th Airedale Scouts**, based at Yeadon Methodist Church near Leeds, have given £850 to Guide Dogs. The cheque was presented at a church parade by David Greenwood on behalf of the Scouts to Thelma Wilson, organiser of the Leeds and District Fundraising Branch. The money was part of the proceeds of the scouts' bag-pack at Morrison's supermarket.



Puppy walker Jean Endersby with guide dog puppy Patch, Leeds Branch organiser Thelma with retired guide dog Alma, guide dog owner Stephen Bassett with guide dog Nick

Puppy walkers **Christine** and **Stuart Powell** recently held a party to mark their 40th wedding anniversary and asked for donations in lieu of presents. The couple raised £260 for Guide Dogs and Ian Wonnacott, Okehampton and District treasurer would like to thank them and their guests for their generosity.

Irene Johnston and guide dog Ricky were presented with a cheque for £5,000 from the **Victoria Shopping Centre** in Nottingham by Centre Office Manager Liz Sewell.



Irene Johnston and guide dog Ricky with Liz Sewell

Helen Astridge and **Nicky McClymont** raised over £3,650 for Guide Dogs by walking the challenging 95-mile 'West Highland Way' in seven days. The route, which opened in 1980, runs from Milngavie, on the outskirts of Glasgow, to the foot of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, at Fort William. Says Helen: "It was a magnificent walk, which took us through some breathtaking

scenery and rugged landscape. We covered between 9 and 19 miles per day, regardless of the weather or the midges!"



Helen Astridge and Nicky McClymont at the end of their epic walk

Jacobs, independent jewellers in Reading, raised over £1,500 for Guide Dogs at a show held at Madejski Stadium, home of Reading Football Club. Chairman of the club, Sir John Madejski drew the raffle.



Photo courtesy of Berkshire Life magazine
Sir John Madejski, Chairman of Reading Football Club, draws the raffle

North Northumberland Branch recently received £375 for Guide Dogs, which was collected at a memorial service for one of their members, Vera Batson. Vera and her re-homed guide dog Charlie supported the branch at many

fundraising events and donated prizes for raffles – she will be greatly missed by the branch and her family.

Warrington and District Branch would like to thank Victoria and Martin Sweeney who raised £550 for Guide Dogs by running a half marathon and taking part in the Great North Swim.



Victoria and Martin Sweeney show their support for Team Guide Dogs

Diane Heyder-Bruckner raised £350 for Guide Dogs by completing The Great North Run. Diane is a vet at Camlas Veterinary Practice in Welshpool and regularly sees guide dogs at the surgery.



Diane Heyder-Bruckner with one of her clients, Colin Jones, and his guide dog Cedar

In a past edition of *Forward*, we told you about Guide Dog Mobility Instructors **Krissie Isaac** and **Gemma Turner** from the Essex and East London District Team, who were going to sled 250km with a team of huskies from Sweden to Norway over six days, to raise money for Guide Dogs. Krissie and



There are so many ways you can fundraise for Guide Dogs. Visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/gettogether for tips on organising events along with posters and invitations to download.

Gemma are now home from their challenge and have raised over £6,180 – well done girls!

The Star, a public house and restaurant in Kirkhamgate, Wakefield raised £940 for Guide Dogs. Restaurant manager Jan Lunn held a Ladies Night and customers John and Bernice Smithson held an evening of entertainment for John's 60th birthday. Landlord Andrew Balderson is a keen supporter of Guide Dogs as his parents John and Margaret, are puppy walkers.



Wakefield Fundraising Branch at The Star public house accompanied by puppy walkers and their guide dog puppies

Loch Long Hotel in Arrochar, Scotland raised £260 for Guide Dogs by holding a raffle.

A recent winner of the **Guide Dogs Lucky Lottery** donated £100 of their winnings back to Guide Dogs. For information on how you can support Guide Dogs by playing the Lucky Lottery see the advertisement on page 4.

Ann Boland and guide dog Kelley raised over £241 for Guide Dogs with a collection at Tesco supermarket at Aberdare in Wales.

Maureen Clark of **Enfield Branch** works for Marks and Spencer, which recently celebrated 125 years of trading. Staff at each branch were asked to nominate a charity and Maureen nominated Guide Dogs for her branch in the Galleria, Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Maureen arranged for counter top collection boxes on each till point, collections outside the store

and a car boot sale. Over £710 was raised for Guide Dogs, which was then boosted by a further £150 from Marks and Spencer Head Office.



Janet Adams, Enfield Branch chair, Marks and Spencer staff Tom Mear and Jemma Kimble, Maureen Clark, Enfield Branch committee member and Steph Handley, Store Manager

Herne Bay, Whitstable and District Branch received a cheque for £3,000 from the **Chestfield Golf Club – Ladies Section**, which made Guide Dogs their charity of the year. Branch organiser Sybil Goodwin and Sheila Burley with guide dog Chrissie attended a coffee morning to collect the cheque for Guide Dogs.



Sheila Burley with guide dog Chrissie receiving a cheque from Raye Gibbons, Ladies Captain, along with club member and Sybil Goodwin, branch organiser

Homefield Preparatory School in Sutton, Surrey has raised over £20,000 for Guide Dogs over the last 25 years. The school holds collections every week and is often visited by guide dog owner Audrey Butler, with guide dog Major, who holds question and answer sessions with the boys

to raise awareness of Guide Dogs. Well done boys, a fantastic achievement!

Bridget Williams, member of Bristol Branch has done a sponsored sky dive for Guide Dogs and raised over £900.



Bridget Williams celebrates her sky dive

Give a volunteer a 'Pat on the Back'

Do you know an outstanding volunteer who deserves an extra big thank you? Why not nominate them for a special 'Pat on the Back'.

Call **0845 371 7771** or email **vrp@guidedogs.org.uk**, tell us who you would like to nominate and why. Existing volunteers can also use the Volunteer Extranet to make a nomination.

For more information call the number above.

In Good Company

Guide Dogs working in partnership with local and national businesses

Lunch with Lesley

The Midlands, Wales and West Fundraising Team organised a ladies lunch in Cheltenham, which was sponsored by the Bottle Green Drinks Company. The 100 guests enjoyed a two-course lunch, received a complimentary goodie bag and had the chance to meet some local working guide dogs and pups in training. The author Lesley Pearse, a big dog lover, attended and donated some signed copies of her books to the raffle



Author Lesley Pearse with Lucy Wiltshire, Marketing Executive at Bottle Green Drinks Company

A warm welcome at Bradford and Bingley

Staff from Bradford and Bingley's head office recently welcomed guide dog owners, puppy walkers and members of Guide Dogs' local fundraising team as part of a visit to raise awareness of the work of the charity. It was also an opportunity for staff to sign up to Guide Dogs' payroll giving

scheme, a simple, tax effective way of giving to charity directly from your pay.

Nicola Wilson, Guide Dogs' District Fundraiser for the North said: "We are extremely grateful to all the staff at Bradford and Bingley for welcoming us. The dogs loved all the attention and the volunteers who dedicated their time to visit the site enjoyed answering all the questions and talking about their experiences as a guide dog owner and/or volunteer."

Big support from npower

Guide Dogs is visiting npower sites across the north east of England to raise awareness of its services for blind and partially sighted people.

Over the coming months, staff from npower will get a chance to meet working and trainee guide dogs, and will be encouraged to sponsor a puppy, recycle for the charity and get involved in volunteering and payroll giving.

Thanks to a £20,000 donation, four npower sites are each sponsoring a guide dog puppy.

Gary Doig, npower's Community Investment Manager in the North East said: "We're delighted to sponsor our own guide dog puppy, Orbie. Guide Dogs' visits to

The photo above shows puppy walker Mike Barwick, guide dog puppy Orbie, npower Community Investment Manager Gary Doig and Guide Dogs' District Fundraiser Nicola Wilson

our sites will enable our employees to learn more about the great work done by the charity."

A Spanish-style donation

Online Spanish food retailer Suculento is donating five per cent of the value of each order (when using the promotional code 'Guidedogs') to Guide Dogs.

The website sells everything you would need to put on a Spanish feast, from olives, vinegars and pickles to gift hampers, tapas sets and paella kits.

To find out more, visit www.suculento.co.uk and check out the gorgeous picture of our own special Spanish import, Camargo, who has joined our breeding programme as a stud dog!



Stud dog Camargo

What's on? Key Events for 2010

June – 'Get dribbling' for Guide Dogs

This month 'Get together' fundraising events will take inspiration from the World Cup. People are encouraged to get together for a kick about and raise vital funds for Guide Dogs.

16–20 June, BBC Gardeners' World Live, NEC, Birmingham

The BBC Food Show and Gardeners' World – be sure to visit the Guide Dogs garden!

21 June and throughout the summer – Guide Dogs at School

The national event for school children of all ages to learn about sight loss and guide dogs. Find out more about Guide Dogs' curriculum based education resources for nursery, primary and secondary schools by visiting www.guidedogs.org.uk/guidedogsatschool or calling **0870 600 23 23**.

July – 'Get deuce-ing' for Guide Dogs

This month the 'Get together' theme focuses on tennis – invite your friends to watch the matches and serve strawberry cream teas or organise a tennis tournament. A great opportunity to have fun and raise money!

10 July, Guide Dogs' Fun Day, 10am–5pm, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

Come and join us for a fun-packed family day out and take part in the 'Guide Dogs Experience'. The day will feature

guide dog and other assistance dog demonstrations, Ridgewood Falconry Display, sheep and duckling herding, a children's activity centre, and much, much more! Entry is free, parking £5 per car.



13–15 July, QAC Sight Village, Birmingham

The UK's premier event showcasing the latest technology, products and support services available to blind and partially sighted people. Make sure you visit the Guide Dogs stand.

August – 'Get dining outdoors' for Guide Dogs

Fire up the barbecue, chill the drinks and invite your friends to an outdoor dinner party to raise money with this month's 'Get together' theme.

11 September, Birdshot Patient Day, UCL Roberts Buildings, Torrington Place, London

This Patient Day, organised by The Birdshot Uveitis Society, is a unique opportunity for people with a Birdshot diagnosis to meet and share their experiences with each other and experts in the field. For more information, visit www.birdshot.org.uk.

2–10 October, Guide Dog Week

This year's Guide Dog Week will cover two weekends giving more time for street collections and other fundraising activity. This year's theme is 'extraordinary partnerships'.

2–3 October, Sight Village, Kensington Town Hall, London

The UK's leading mobility exhibition for blind and partially sighted people. Make sure you visit the Guide Dogs stand.

13–14 November, Discover Dogs, Earls Court 1, London

A great day out for dog lovers in celebration of man's best friend. The Guide Dogs stand will be there to raise awareness with the public about our work.

All year

'Just Jill' by Jill Allen-King MBE

Guide dog owner Jill Allen-King MBE has written an inspirational and moving account of one woman's triumph over adversity and how she has used her own experience of disability to benefit others. Her autobiography will be stocked in all good bookshops from 16 July 2010.

For more information, call Jackie Bright on **01255 428500** or email jackie.bright@apexpublishing.co.uk.

We'll never forget

If you would like to pay tribute to a guide dog you have known, please send your tribute (up to a maximum of 25 words) to Anne Gillow, *Forward*, Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3YG or email anne.gillow@guidedogs.org.uk.

Annie: 11.7.96 – 5.12.09

Guide to the late Ann Marie McNaught, puppy walked by Helen Macdonald, happy retirement with Kathie McPhail. Loved by all.

Run free my lovely girl.

Bert: 22.7.00 – 24.2.10

Working guide and companion of Samuel Baxter. Gentle giant. Loved by all. Will be greatly missed.

Lots of love son and God bless. Samuel and Margaret Baxter.

Bliss: 23.8.96 – 18.2.10

A delight to work, a joy in retirement. You have left an empty space in our hearts.

Love always, Elaine, Liz, Gibson, Jay and Inca.

Brandy: 21.4.97 – 5.1.10

When I met Brandy, she transformed my life and was my inspiration, and gave me confidence to meet new friends.

Much missed by all. Ann Baker.

Bryn: 26.2.95 – 25.1.10

First and faithful guide to Joe Richardson. Retired to and loyal companion of, Cynthia Holt and Lizzie. To know him was to love him.

Goodnight, God bless.

Cardy: 22.3.98 – 18.3.10

Faithfully guided by Brian Stoddart, puppy walked by Mr and Mrs Graham, retired to Mr and Mrs Alexander.

We were lucky to have you in our lives.

Carl: 27.8.95 – 21.10.09

You left us with great memories. Loved and missed by all the family.

Goodbye our gentle giant. Mr and Mrs Dresser.

Chad: 4.11.00 – 4.2.10

Puppy walked and adopted by Debbie Marchese and family. Always a place in our hearts for you.

Miss you so much Chadders. Debbie, Mark, Chloe and Adam.

Clare: 28.4.95 – 6.2.10

Guide to Julie Elliott. Puppy walked by Oswald and Marianne Freeman and Gill Taylor.

A sweet gentle little girl. God bless.

Connah: 29.4.98 – 5.2.10

We were so blessed to have had you in our family.

Loved and missed so very much by so many. Marilyn, Sid and family.

Copper: 1.9.96 – 21.1.10

Loyal friend and guide to the late Tess Rowlands.

Back together again.

Dan: 7.2.95 – 7.5.09

First guide to Yvonne Holt. Loyal companion and gentle giant. Retired to Melissa Faulkner 2006.

Will be sadly missed by all. God bless.

Davis: 22.8.98 – 6.12.10

Now you have no more aches and pains, sniff everywhere and run free our handsome little angel. *You touched everyone's hearts.*

You will never be forgotten

Dixon: 17.11.92 – 12.9.09

Guide to Steven Rushton. Retired to his puppy walkers Ron and Audrey Pearson. Now with Ron and Patty

Love and miss you lots bonny lad. Audrey 'Mrs'.

Fergie: 25.6.97 – 25.3.10

My Pupsy! You walked beside me for many long years! Now run free for ever.

Goodnight, God bless. Love Mum, Dad and Livvie. (Terry Prater.)

Gable: 19.11.96 – 26.2.10

First guide to John Atkinson. Puppy walked by Kay and David Townes. Retired to Anne Hewitson.

Much loved and missed by everyone.

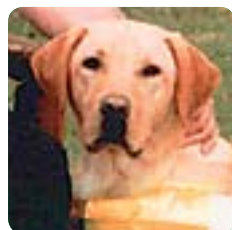
Annie



Bert



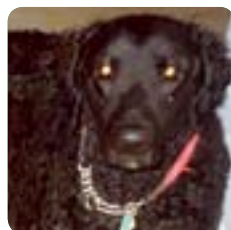
Bryn



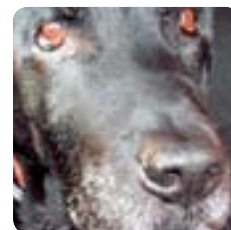
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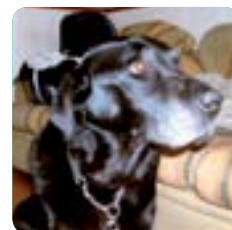
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Connah



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Dixon



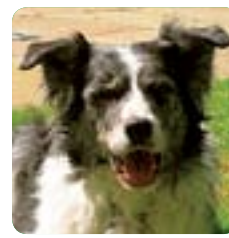
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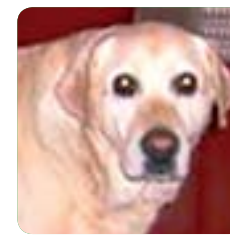
Geoff



Lizzy



Maggie



Nikki



Orla

Geoff: 1.3.96 – 9.12.09

Guide to Darren Hartland. Much loved, so privileged to have had time with you.

Miss you so much, always remember you, big hugs. Jenny and Dave Reynolds.

Heather: 24.4.96 – 4.1.10

Enjoyed eight years of faithfully guiding Philip Cookson to many meetings around Bridgnorth before retirement.

Thank you for being such a wonderful friend. Kathy James.

Ivy: 9.2.97 – 1.3.10

Faithful guide to May Lavery. Trained at Forfar by Andrena McIntyre. Happy retirement with Sheena Simpson and sister Mary. *A gentle and fun loving friend.*

Julia: 7.3.96 – 21.1.10

Devoted and faithful guide to Maureen O'Hara. In retirement the gorgeous pet of Judy and Bryan Gregory. Loved by us all. *Sleep peacefully our treasured Jules.*

Lindsey: 15.7.96 – 14.1.10

Wonderful first guide to Jennifer Hayden, puppy walked by Barry and Debbie Roberts.

A special friend. Thank you for lighting up my life, my golden angel.

Lindsey: 18.9.96 – 13.3.10

My best friend in work and retirement. Sadly missed.

Goodbye Cherub. Love Bettie

Lizzy: 16.6.96 – 23.3.10

Guide to Christine Bailey. Retired to Cynthia and Bryn. Gone to join her pack that left her behind.

Till we all meet again my love. Cynthia.

Luke: 7.10.96 – 12.10.09

First guide and best friend to Ian Sylvester. The perfect gentleman with a 'smile'.

Deeply missed by all. Forever in our hearts.

Maggie: 21.5.97 – 19.2.10

Faithful guide to Janet Mortimer for 10 years and loyal friend to Tracey. Puppy walked and retired to Janet Turner.

Best wee girl ever! Rest in peace.

Matthew: 8.5.94 – 28.11.09

Exceptional guide to Alan Johnson.

Beauty without vanity, strength without insolence, courage without ferocity and all the virtues of man without any of his vices.

Nikki: 18.11.97 – 23.12.09

Second guide to Debbie Allman. Happy retirement with Mum and Deb, peacefully put to sleep. Brave and courageous during your illness. *You are greatly missed.*

Orla: 11.3.96 – 4.1.10

Mother to many guide dogs. Brian and Brigitte Barber – brood bitch holders.

Beloved member of the family, and gentlest of companions

Pam: 4.5.96 – 31.1.10

First guide to Pat Worrall, puppy walked by Anne Skinner, happy retirement with Teresa and Alan Collins.

Loved by everyone who knew her. Sadly missed, never forgotten.

Rumba: 26.6.96 - 9.2.10

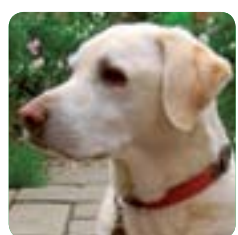
First guide and best friend to David Allen. Puppy walked by Deanne Johnston. Retired to Eve Allen. *A beautiful gentle lady. Love you forever darling Rumpy.*

Taylor: 4.7.94 – 12.2.10

Second guide dog to Michele Hazlehurst. My big strong boy led me through life for nine years. *Not gone just in a different garden. Goodnight my boy.*

Teddy: 11.8.96 – 23.2.10

Much loved second guide to Andrew Connah. Walked by Mrs Turner. The most wonderful, adored companion in retirement. *Mum, Dad and Kraken miss you so much Teddy Bear.*



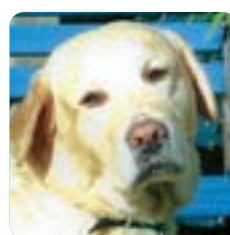
Teddy



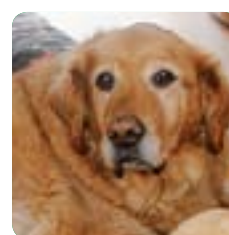
Tessa & Callie



Val



Valdaz



William



Yvee



Zorro

Tessa: 24.4.98 – 31.1.09

Callie: 13.10.94 – 4.2.10

Brood bitches and much more, wonderful companions. You were our sunshine, now we have two more stars in our night sky.

Miss you loads.

Tuppence: 4.4.94 – 2.2.10

Guide to the late Eileen Ashfield. Puppy walked and retired to the Maskell family of Maidenhead.

Loved and missed by all.

Ula: 10.4.95 – 27.12.09

Sadly put to sleep. Third guide to Joan Smith, trained by Susan Hawkins, stayed with Joan in her retirement. *Will be missed by all who knew her.*

Val: 27.10.96 – 10.2.10

Guide to Sue Rothery. Puppy walked by Ron and Audrey Pearson. *My guiding angel, miss you forever. Much loved and sadly missed by all who knew our Vally.*

Valdaz: 27.10.96 – 10.1.10

Tollgate stud dog. A gentle giant, loved by all who knew him.

A part of our family throughout his life and greatly missed. The Olivers.

Whitney: 4.7.96 – 10.12.10

Willing guide to Des Maloney, Filey, retired to Ann and Clive Townsend, Scarborough.

A little dog with a great big heart.

William: 16.3.98 – 17.2.10

Guide to Liz Woskett-Burton. Forever in our thoughts and hearts.

A friend to all. The love and happiness he gave us cannot be put into words.

Yvee (Evette): 21.7.95 – 20.1.10

Loved through her working life and in retirement to Terry and Maureen Yorke. *She gave us unconditional love and Terry's shadow is now at rest.*

Zac: 18.4.97 – 14.11.09

Returned to puppy walker. Loyal friend, missed by all who knew him. *Will never be forgotten.*

Love you always, sleep well. Julia Philp.

Zorro: 11.8.94 – 24.2.10

A gentle giant, loved by all. Retired to Glenys and Vernon Goodall for eight wonderful years. *Miss and love you forever. God bless.*

Send your tribute to:

Anne Gillow,
Forward, Hillfields, Burghfield
Common, Reading RG7 3YG

or email
anne.gillow@guidedogs.org.uk.

"My cherished friend - forever in my heart"

Nothing can prepare you for the huge sadness of losing a beloved pet. However, many people find great comfort in adding their pet's name to our online Book of Remembrance – alongside our own cherished guide dogs.

You can also create a personalised page in celebration of your pet's life, where you can share special photos and memories of any animal. By making a donation in your pet's name you'll be helping to create another amazing

partnership – the one between a blind or partially sighted person and their guide dog.

To find out more, visit www.giftsinmemory.org.uk/pets, email giftsinmemory@guidedogs.org.uk or call Joette Emerton on **0118 983 8385**.

We have flyers and posters to promote the online Book of Remembrance – if you know any suitable places to put them, let us know and we will send you some.



STEP

If you are a guide dog owner, current or retired, and have experienced the loss of your dog and want to talk to a trained listener who is also a guide dog owner, call the STEP line on **0845 372 7474** between 8am and 10pm daily.

Paws for thought

- Guide Dogs has created an online Memorial Book called Paws for Thought, where working and retired dogs can be honoured with a complimentary listing of their name in our unique Memorial Book.
- Visit www.giftsinmemory.org.uk.

Letters

Please send your letters to *Forward*, Guide Dogs, Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3YG or email forward@guidedogs.org.uk.

Forward's new look is a hit!

I like the new look of *Forward*. The biggest improvement is that we have proper captions. I used to find it really disappointing to see people and not know who they were.

The magazine is very strong on giving us information about fundraising activities and I love reading the 'human interest' articles about guide dog owners. It would be nice to read more items about things which are of direct interest to puppy walkers. I know we have our own newsletter, *Puppy Times*, but it would be good if we could feature in *Forward* too; I'm sure puppy walker news would interest guide dog owners, who do not get *Puppy Times*.

I'm looking forward even more to future editions of *Forward*.

**Jean Endersby – puppy walker
Leeds**

Reply from the Editor:

Thank you for your feedback. We are hoping to have a feature on puppy walkers in a future issue.

Audio Forward is "fantastic" ...

As a guide dog owner I find *Forward* magazine on CD fantastic. It gives me a good idea of what Guide Dogs is up to and also allows me to keep up to date with the issues for blind and partially sighted people across the country.

Thank you for an informative and thoroughly enjoyable magazine which I look forward to receiving.

Diane Marks – Hove

My Forward favourites...

I have really enjoyed reading the new look *Forward*. I found it really informative with easy to read print, with a good use of colours and layout of the articles.

My favourite articles include the individual experiences of guide dog owners and the competitions, but I save my favourite section until last... *We'll Never Forget*. Keep up the good work and well done!

Tina Pritchard – via email

Dads are important too!

I've just received the *Forward* magazine for Spring 2010. It's packed with so many articles and inspiring stories and is a great read. Well done to all involved.

I'm in print in this issue and so proud to be in *New Partnerships*. Our second puppy Ike, has now qualified. Can I ask why you don't put the stud dog holder's name in the magazine? I feel they are just as important as the brood bitch holders.

I'd like to thank Ike's stud dog holders and 'Team Ike' – the Coxes, the Standings, my family and friends. Thanks to Tracey and Alison, his trainers, and Georgina and Mark, his boarders. Finally,

Jenny Martin and her team for their help. Ike wouldn't have made it without you!

**Vikki Holt – puppy walker
Redditch**

Reply from the Editor:

Thank you for your feedback. I understand your point about stud dogs; it's something we may consider in the future.

Puppy love

I was thrilled to see the letter from Nicola Croft about her guide dog Wyn. Our family puppy walked Wyn six years ago. We always hoped she made a good guide dog, as she was the usual bundle of mischief as a puppy. It's lovely to know that she's still making a difference to someone's life.

Parting with a puppy is hard, but you hope you are sending them out into the world to be a good citizen, knowing you gave them a good, loving start in life. Wyn was originally going to be a brood bitch, but stayed with us longer than expected when it was decided that she should be spayed. Our retired guide dog Kass still has a soft spot for black labs.

**Nicola Wilson – puppy walker
Colchester**



Guide dog puppy Wyn

In memory & in our thoughts

Hundreds of friends and family attended a service of thanksgiving and remembrance for the life of **Gordon Pattinson** in Maryport, Cumbria.

Rod Arthern, Senior District Fundraiser for the North West and North Wales said: "It was a pleasure and a privilege to have known Gordon and his family. When I joined Guide Dogs 20 years ago, Gordon had already been fundraising for 35 years.

"He had a fantastic 'can do' attitude and travelled thousands of miles to achieve his goals, raising many thousands of pounds and promoting awareness to recruit dozens of volunteers. Guide Dogs has lost a true ambassador. Gordon will be sadly missed by all who knew him." Goodnight and God Bless 'Fatha'.

It is with sadness that Claverham, Clevedon and District Branch announce the death of **Daphne Smith** on 29 November 2009. She was one of the very early members of the branch, serving on the committee for 22 years and only retiring in 2002. Daphne was heavily involved in the organisation of the branch's annual dog show, which ran for 20 years, drawing on her knowledge of breeding and showing Labradors. She was also a regular helper with the monthly Yatton bookstall for over 21 years and could always be counted on to help with stalls and flag days. Daphne will be missed by her family and friends.

Guide Dogs would like to express their sincere sympathy on the recent loss of **James (Jim) Delamaine**. He and his late wife, Ellen, were supporters of Guide Dogs for many years and were involved with fundraising in their local area of Tadley. They sponsored many guide dog puppies over the years and the charity always remained close to their hearts. It was Jim and Ellen's wish that a generous gift would be left to Guide Dogs in their Will and we are truly grateful for this kind support. Our thoughts and condolences go out to Jim's family and friends.

Barnstaple and District Branch are sorry to announce the death of **Major Archer** who for a number of years was chairman of the branch and a dedicated fundraiser. He died in February at the age of 92 and leaves a widow, Phyllis. Our thoughts are with her at this sad time.

Richmond, Twickenham and District Branch are sorry to announce the death of **Pamela Watson**, for many years a loyal supporter and branch honorary treasurer. Pam worked hard at supermarket collections and also knitted covers for coat hangers, which she then sold to raise money for the branch at various events. Our thoughts and condolences go to her family.

It is with great sadness that Dunblane and District Branch announce the sudden death of **Julia (Julie) Cuthbertson**, their

branch secretary for many years. Julie was a dedicated supporter of Guide Dogs and over the years, she and her husband Gilmour have re-homed many dogs that were immediately taken to their hearts and became part of their family. She will be sadly missed by Gilmour and everyone who knew her, but always remembered for her devoted love and commitment to Guide Dogs.



Julie Cuthbertson

Asking for donations to charity in lieu of funeral flowers can be a special way of remembering a loved one.

We have collection envelopes that can be personalised by us with the name of your relative or friend.

To request envelopes, please call **Joette Emerton** on **0118 983 8385**.



Guide Dogs transforms lives

Volunteering puts you at the heart of this

You can volunteer for Guide Dogs in many ways and every role helps us achieve our vision of a society in which blind and partially sighted people enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else.

Whether you choose to volunteer as a puppy walker, fundraiser, boarder, driver, or by offering organisational or admin assistance, your journey with Guide Dogs will involve working in great teams, developing new skills and enhancing existing ones, and having lots of fun.

Volunteers
the heart of **Guide Dogs**

To find out more about volunteering with Guide Dogs
contact the National Volunteering Office on 0845 371 7771
or email volunteer@guidedogs.org.uk



Guide Dogs



go for Guide Dogs

CHALLENGE EVENTS

**RUN, KAYAK, BIKE, TREK,
HIKE, JUMP OR SWIM**

Whatever your challenge - go for Guide Dogs

To find out more visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/go
or call **0845 600 6787**