

# SEASON'S GREETINGS



*Watson in the snow*

*With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year  
From the Trustees and Co-ordinators  
of  
**SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE**  
(Registered Charity Number 1098769)  
PO Box 112, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 3RB*

## Golden Moments – Issue 27

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. It seemed to take an age to get going but was pretty good in the end. I seemed to have long periods when I didn't have wet, muddy dogs, which made a nice change!

Our new Trustees are getting to know and you will find a profile of Ray Elsey later in this issue.

Rescue was fairly quiet during the first half of the year but we have been busier over the last few months. One real emergency was when one of our Co-ordinators received a phone call one morning from a lady who had just taken in her neighbour's two bitches, aged 9 and 11. Very sadly the neighbour had died suddenly in the night and the dogs had been in the bedroom with her. The poor lady was all packed up as she was due to move that day, so everything was in complete chaos. The kind neighbour who phoned us couldn't keep the dogs as she was going away the next day herself, so a foster home had to be found immediately, and this was holiday time! The Co-ordinator spent all day on the phone trying to find somewhere for them to go, but kept drawing a blank, until a kind helper phoned round her PAT dogs contacts and found just the right people who were about to contact us with a view to getting a dog. It had to be a fostering arrangement to begin with as we didn't know whether the lady had left any instructions for the dogs in her Will, but as it turned out she hadn't so the couple were able to adopt the two girls permanently. They settled in straight away and the couple are absolutely delighted with them.

The Southern Golden Retriever Society's annual Fun Day at the end of May was once again a great success. The sun shone



and 35 Rescue dogs took part in the Parade, and many enjoyed entering the Fun classes and doggy games. The Holly Trophy for the oldest Rescue dog present on the day went to Marion and Adrian Palmer's Alice, who was 13 years old.

The Fun Day was a rather bitter sweet occasion as it marked the retirement of two of our longest-serving Co-ordinators, Pat and Peter Marchant. There is a short tribute to them later in this issue.

Age is catching up with several of our Co-ordinators now so we are once again looking for possible replacements, particularly in the West Sussex, South Surrey and Hampshire areas. If you think you might enjoy helping in this way please contact Gillian Robinson who can explain what's involved.

I hope you have a very happy Christmas and you and your dogs stay fit and healthy in 2017.

## Pat and Peter Marchant

We were extremely sorry to lose two of our longest-serving Co-ordinators this year. Pat and Peter Marchant, who have been involved with Rescue for over 35 years, decided that age and health meant they could no longer fulfil their responsibilities as they wished to do.

They started by helping the late Sheila Richards, and her successors Pat Cooper and Pat Easton, with home visiting and transporting dogs and when the latter gave up in 1999 and Pat had more time herself she became a Co-ordinator, and carried out her duties to the very best of her ability. She was ably assisted by Peter and they absolutely devoted themselves to helping the dogs in need. Nothing was too much trouble and they would literally 'drop everything' if the need arose. Over the years they have re-homed about 400 dogs

Pat and Peter were stalwart helpers at the Southern Golden Retriever Society's Fun Days, and the various games they organised, such as 'Pick-a-Straw' and the tombola, were much appreciated and raised welcome funds for our Charity. They were also regular helpers with manning the Rescue Board at the Society's Open and Championship shows.

Pat was unable to attend the 2016 Fun Day as one of their dogs was ill, but the Co-ordinators and Trustees had collected amongst themselves and Peter was presented with a yellow rose and a cheque.



Pat and Peter are greatly missed but we hope to see them at future Fun Days, enjoying themselves without having any responsibilities!

## Bee and Wasp Stings

It is not unusual for our pets to be stung by bees or wasps and this mostly occurs on their faces or paws. Half of the time they just find it sore and irritating, in which case the pain should be temporary and you need do nothing, although applying an ice pack wrapped in a towel, or a weak solution of water and baking soda may help reduce the pain.

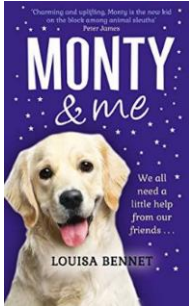
Occasionally however, as with humans, there may be an allergic reaction, in which case you should seek veterinary advice as soon as possible.

Signs to look for:

- Difficulty breathing
- General weakness
- Excessive swelling leading away from the area of the sting

Stings inside the nose or throat can be particularly dangerous as the swelling could block your dog's airway, and if this happens you should get immediate veterinary attention.

## Book Review



### **Monty and Me: A heart-warmingly wagtastic novel!**

by Louisa Bennet.

The first book introducing loveable Golden Retriever detective Monty! You might think that dogs can't understand us... but you'd be very wrong!

Apart from an obsession with cheese, Monty is a perfectly rational animal. So when his beloved master is stabbed to death, Monty decides to use his formidable nose to track down the killer. Luckily, he is adopted by Rose Sidebottom, the young policewoman investigating the case. But, with her colleagues turning against her, and the wrong man arrested, Rose is going to need a little help...

Monty devises a way to communicate his findings to Rose, so that the two can co-operate in the investigation.

This is an enjoyable murder mystery in its own right, but anyone who knows Golden Retrievers will get so much more fun and perhaps a little understanding!

British-born mystery author, Louisa Bennet, studied Literature at the University of London and went on to learn Canine Linguistics from her Golden Retriever, Pickles, which is how she discovered what Golden Retrievers really get up to when we're not around.

Truth be told, she says, Pickles came up with the story for the Monty and Sidebottom Mysteries, and Louisa just transcribed it. She's faster on the keyboard and less easily distracted by food and passing squirrels.

Louisa worked in magazine publishing and climate change consulting before focusing on novel writing. She divides her time between London and Sydney, Australia, and runs courses on crime fiction and creative writing. Pickles runs courses on we-mailing, duck toppling and drool management.

Published by Avon and available in hardcover (£3.85); as an Amazon Kindle e-book (£2.73); and as a talking book.

## Xylitol

Xylitol is a naturally occurring alcohol found in most plant material, including many fruits and vegetables. It is extracted from birch wood to make medicine. It is widely used as a sugar substitute for people with diabetes and in sugar free chewing gums, mints and other sweets. It is also added to some oral care products to prevent tooth decay and dry mouth.

Xylitol can, however, be toxic to dogs, even when relatively small amounts are eaten. If your dog eats a product that contains Xylitol you should take it to the Vet immediately.

## Jack Morris



Jack has been rescued twice, at about 7 months and 7 years. He had a lovely home near a golf course in Surrey, and apart from an incident where he apparently swallowed 5 golf balls, I am sure he led a happy life and was much loved. However, life moves on, and following the sad death of his wife, his owner moved to Bexhill, buying a house on the seafront. This proved to be the deciding factor in Jack's rehoming. At

every opportunity he would run across the road into the sea and refuse to come out! Along with other factors, it was decided that it would be best to rehome him, and it was my good fortune to be able to take him on. He is very laid back, and has absolutely no intention of retrieving anything, but used to love running in the woods and on the Downs.

Now he is 14 years old, he sadly has severe arthritis in his back legs, and they do give way on a regular basis. He gets up and carries on though, still enjoys shorter walks, and loves a dip in a muddy puddle, and a good roll in the leaves or on the lawn! We tried a course of hydrotherapy, and the therapist said he was the only dog she'd had who had worked out he could float - the only attempt he made at swimming was to get to the exit ramp! He can be quite stubborn - if my walking route doesn't agree with his, he stands his ground until I give in!

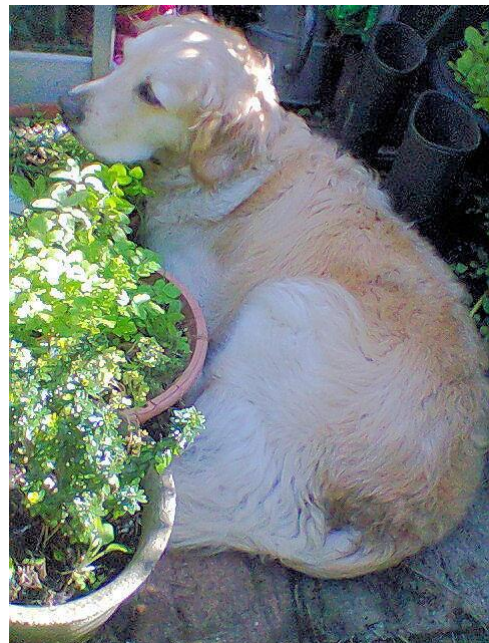
He is a little bit spoilt, now he is getting on in years. Toast is his favourite, and as soon as the bread goes in the toaster, he's in the kitchen! Nothing wrong with his sense of smell!

Thank you to Southern Golden Retriever Rescue, for giving me such a great companion!

## Mollie's News

Hello. My name is Mollie and in September 2015 I had to find a new home at the age of 7. Having had 4 homes already it had to be one for the rest of my days. A lovely lady called Joan found me such a home with a couple who already had a Golden Retriever. The day was set when I would move to my new home and I was duly met by my new companion, Harry, and his owners. We greeted each other and as he seemed alright I got into the car. On the way I fell asleep. Arriving at my new home I followed Harry indoors and straight to the garden. Plenty to explore here.

The first days were difficult and getting used to my new surroundings was hard. I lost confidence and didn't want to go far in case I didn't get home again. When I got home, Harry was there to greet me which was reassuring. Harry being 12 ½ and a bit arthritic accompanied me on outings as much as he could and always in the mornings. I gradually settled into my new home and found it relaxing and an



easy going atmosphere. I have shown how clever I am by emptying the washing from the machine. I've been trained to do this and just want to help. This is now my job at home.

December 2015

I've been a busy girl. I have brought home a woolly hat and a pair of gloves I found while out on a walk. The gloves fit Mum. Harry and I have been to work with Dad and we had a great time. After working so hard we had to have a tea break (plus biscuits of course). We've had our picture taken in a customer's garden last week, both looking rather serious. One of Dad's customers is a lady of 85 and I chased a squirrel in her garden. We were having tea in the lounge and her neighbour (who is 97) came in so I sat next to her to be stroked. I also have a toy boy, Oscar! He lives close to me and is quite fun. I like to chase him and get him to play. As I'm big for a girl I can be quite bossy with him. We go on long walks together and have fun.

April 2016

I've now been on holiday. We went away to Dorchester for the weekend a couple of weeks ago, Mum and Dad know some people who own a tea room, traditional with everything home made. They do B&B with a large lounge, four-poster, plenty of room for all of us. I slept most of the way there, Harry only sat up when we stopped. Harry perked up when he saw where we were but I was a bit uncertain. I didn't know where I was and thought I was being rehomed again, I needed both Mum and Dad to walk me at first. After a day I began to realise it wasn't what I thought and settled. I even managed to walk with Dad only. Sunday lunch was full but I tucked myself in and dozed off. Harry plodded round and was meeter and greeter to customers. I enjoyed my stay especially when the owners gave Harry and I some sausage for breakfast. I was made very welcome and we're going again next year. First thing I did when we got home was to check the garden to make sure I really was home again. Harry and I come to work with Dad when we can and the customers look forward to seeing us. To show how clever I am, I found a hearing aid. Handed it over for a treat undamaged. My favourite things at home (apart from food) are to empty the washing machine, chase cats, squirrels and pigeons.

July 2016

Harry and I are still going to work when we can and it's not too hot. One customer even gives us money for biscuits. I keep her entertained by moving various items including waste paper baskets, glasses, TV remotes and even a hearing aid. My most recent find when out for a walk was a beer glass. I discovered it on the pavement near our house and thought it best to bring it home for safe keeping. I have now started to chase a tennis ball in the park but also like to carry it to save running. Dad has some raspberries in the garden. There's a net around them but a few have grown through. I waited for them to ripen and ate them. Walking through a field, I found the only patch of mud. Top half clean, bottom half black.

We are all going away for week in September so when I get back I will tell you all about it. Cheers for now.

Mollie

## Lydia Hillier



Having talked about getting a dog for a few years, we finally did something about it last summer. We contacted Wendy. Together with Rachel, she gave us an "educational" guide to having a golden retriever since we'd never had a dog before. They made sure to tell us about dog hair in the house and muddy paws. They told us all about dogs that like to eat things they shouldn't and about dog habits such as rolling in fox mess..

All this was good preparation for having our first dog, Lydia, whom we were able to adopt a few weeks later. She was an 8 year old dog with a bit of a skin condition and a lovely personality. She is in good health now and her skin and coat look lovely. We are grateful to have been entrusted with her and for the charity's support we receive for Lydia's medication.



Lydia settled in very well and is teaching us all about having a dog. She loves people, so it has been very easy to take her places with us. She has been on trips with the family to Norfolk, Yorkshire and France. She has quietly sat under the table in a couple of restaurants - well, ok, more like sprawled next to the table... She was even allowed to attend a concert of classical music where she had a nap at our feet. She's a good girl and

Lydia is simply the best first dog we could have hoped for!

## New Trustee Ray



My name is Ray Elsey and I was honoured to be invited to become a Trustee of the Southern Golden Retriever Rescue Charity.

Through my wife, Jenny, I have had an association with the Southern Golden Retriever Society since 2001. We obtained our first Goldie, our beloved, Ellie, from Gillian Clark, little realising what a huge impact these beautiful dogs would and still have on our lives. Ellie and all our Goldieø have been trained to gold standard by the Society at Wrotham in Kent. Jenny is a long standing member of the Southern Golden Retriever Society Display Team and currently works our girl, Tia. Jenny is also an active member of the Society, she is a member of the Wrotham Management Committee and is also now one of their trainers. She is responsible for the monthly raffles, the main one being at the Fun Dayø She has also assisted Gillian Clark in the rehoming of several dogs by the Rescue Charity.

We (well mainly Jenny) have bred several litters over the past 15 years. From Ellie's first litter we kept Keira, from Keira's one and only litter we kept Tia. Unfortunately, we were unable to breed from Tia but after going back to Gillian Clark we obtained Mardi and from Mardi's second litter we kept Ailla (Islay). Sadly, Ellie and Keira are no longer with us, but we are back up to four dogs as we have taken back a puppy from Ellie's second litter, our first ever boy, Harvey - a heart-breaking decision by his family. Harvey is ten years old and has settled in well as part of the Kemsing Retriever Gang (we love him).

In May 2004 I took early retirement after working for 38 years in the financial sector in the City of London. I hope that the experience I have gained over these years will assist me in my new role as a Trustee of the Charity. I undertake to exercise my role as Trustee to the best of my ability with the overriding principal to positively assist as many Goldies as possible who require the help and involvement of the Charity.

### **Caring for the Older Dog**

With luck our pets will live a long and happy life, but, like us, as they get older they undergo changes in their organs and joints. One of the most important ways we can help them is by not letting them put on a lot of weight. This can creep on as exercise levels decrease, so it may be necessary to reduce the amount of food they have. It is important, however, to keep them moving so don't give up on the exercise.

Some older dogs find slippery floors very difficult, but putting down a mat will help with this, and a ramp may be useful to assist them getting into the car or coping with steps in the garden. It can also be helpful to help their joints by ensuring they have a thick and comfortable bed to sleep in. There are many joint supplements on the market which may also be useful.



Don't forget to let us know if your dog achieves any successes, either by gaining a Kennel Club Good Citizen award or in a competition of some kind. Please email the editor at <a href="mailto:gc.robinson47@btinternet.com">gc.robinson47@btinternet.com</a>
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