

SEASON'S GREETINGS



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 29

Once again the year has flown past and it's time for the Christmas Newsletter. It's quite true what they say – the years really do go more quickly as you get older!

We are still not getting nearly as many dogs into Rescue as we used to. I just hope that those which are being homed by other routes are getting the loving families they deserve.

We enjoyed meeting many of you at the Southern Golden Retriever Society's annual Fun Day in May. It's lovely that people are prepared to travel from quite a distance to attend. There were 35 dogs in the Rescue Parade, and I saw lots of you walking around wearing rosettes won in the various competition classes. The sun shone on us once again and I hope you all had a good day. The Holly Trophy, kindly given by the Dyer family, for the oldest SGRR dog present on the day, was awarded to Maureen Norman's Sally who was nearly 15 years old. In addition a potted plant was presented to Julie Wahl whose 14 year old bitch Amber was the oldest non-SGRR dog to take part.



During the year we were sorry to lose the services of Chris Hadley, who was a co-ordinator in the south-west Surrey/east Hampshire area for many years. She and her husband Mike and their dogs have moved to Dorset and we send them our good wishes for their life there.

Do remember to take all the usual precautions with your dogs over the Christmas period. Please be careful with the decorations, and don't be tempted to give them too much rich food. The last thing you want is a visit to the vet with an upset tummy!

We hope you have a lovely time and wish you and your dogs a happy and healthy 2018.

A Christmas Tail by Lynn Ames



It's Christmas Eve and, what with one thing and another, you just haven't had time to deliver your Christmas presents. There is nothing you can do about it, so you go to bed.

But what if you have a pair of lovable, well-meaning Golden Retrievers who want to try to save their mama's Christmas?

In this fantasy tale, this ingenious, wise-cracking duo are off to deliver Mama's presents to their intended destinations. Along the way, they enlist the help of their pal, Lucy, a smart-mouthed Siberian husky with an affinity for old movies and an entrepreneurial spirit, and her band of not-so-merry helpers.

Join Parker and Dixie on a hilarious romp that will have you laughing out loud. We double-dog guarantee it!

This is a short story (44 pages), available only from the Kindle store.



Molly's News

(Molly and her litter brother Rooney were 4 years old and had been looked after by the owner's son for a year as the owner had died. They were kept mostly outside in a yard and were rather neglected)



This is Molly. Considering she is now 12 she is doing really well overall and looking pretty good for her age! She gets pretty tired and sometimes stiff on walks now but is always keen to go so we vary the daily walks from 20 – 60 minutes, which is about her maximum really. I strongly believe it's important to keep them like us, moving gently but every day.

When she came to us she was fairly obese but her weight has been fairly constant and healthy over the years. Sometimes it's hard to keep the weight on her but I have recently upgraded her food which has helped.

She lives with me and my daughter Meg (aged 14) and our cat from the Blue Cross, Oskar, who Molly loves.

They are good companions. She likes her new home as we all do, and there are plenty of good walks around Northiam, especially behind Dixter House! Aren't we lucky! She loves her soft toys and is truly a blessing in our family and has been such an easy, loving, friendly dog. She does like to talk loudly when friends are talking to me, though, so clearly feels left out at times.



We are truly grateful for her company and she has been a blessing, particularly in my life. I hope the Golden Retriever Rescue charity is thriving in helping dogs find new, loving families, and thank you for all the newsletters over the years.

Lisa

Farewell Charlie

My handsome boy has gone and I, and a lot of others, miss him so much. He was very admired and popular with people and dogs alike on his daily walks.

We were very privileged to be able to give Charlie a forever home. He settled in quickly and we and the grandchildren loved him instantly. When Peter was alive we were able to take him to the field where he enjoyed long walks. He loved the woods and the wandering freedom. He also loved the farm where we took him on holiday – the chickens weren't too keen on him though!

He liked the beaches when the sand was wet, but didn't like the sea – he used to run away from the waves coming in. He could, however, swim very well as we found out when he thought he could walk on water at a friend's swimming pool. He was keen to get out!



Charlie was a very happy dog, very laid back, and we were lucky to have him and enjoy his company for many years.

Jean Buck

A Different Outcome

One of the first things that we consider when asked to help to rehome a dog is the possibility of the dog actually remaining with his family. We go to the trouble to establish the exact reasons that the owner feels the need to rehome him and we hope that many of you will have benefitted from the care and honesty that original owners show to us when telling us about the life with their much loved companion.

There are several occasions each year when we manage to provide guidance, practical help in the home, temporary fostering or just a shoulder to lean on which, very appropriately, allows the dog and the owner to remain together. We feel just as happy with that good outcome as we do when we find a new home for a dog.

A gentleman had sadly died, whilst out walking with his dog. The surviving partner of the couple is disabled and unable to walk the elderly Golden Retriever. We quickly arranged a temporary dog walking service to supplement the help neighbours were giving and we recruited some local volunteers who would, on a regular basis, take the dog for a daily walk. We therefore did not feel the need to rehome him and the lady happily felt able to keep him. We do rehome oldies but they do take a while longer to settle and clearly for this chap continuing in his lifelong home was the best outcome.

Another very different set of circumstances occurred when a lady, Monica, asked me to rehome her lovely Golden girl because she had been diagnosed with a terminal disease. We came to an arrangement that allowed Tara to live with Monica all the times she was able to care for her and then Tara relocated to me for the days or weeks when Monica was too poorly or in hospital. This worked out for over a year and I am pleased to say that Monica enjoyed the company of Tara right up to her sad death. Tara was a wonderful dog and did all the right things, she was always delighted to return home, going straight to the "pigs ear" corner, and greeting Monica with all the fuss we know a Golden can give, and this gave Monica great comfort. Tara enjoyed the rough and tumble of our country life when she came here.

Did we keep Tara after Monica died? No. Tara went off to join another family and is still providing great companionship to another lady, who quite coincidentally, is of a similar nature to Monica.

We can't keep them all!

(Rachel Clark, Rescue Co-ordinator)

Molly Stevens

Hello, Mollie here. Just got back from the beach running around in the sea. So while I dry off, here is the latest edition of my activities. There's lots to tell you.



I do have some sad news for you. I lost my companion, Harry in April. He did very well to reach 14 and I really miss him especially at supper when we shared biscuits. After losing Harry, we went to Dorset for a long weekend. Didn't notice much of the journey as I was asleep in the car. We stayed in a lovely tea room, all home made cakes and scones. I was very good at Sunday lunch and tucked myself away under the table. Naturally diners wanted to fuss me so I had to oblige them. It seems I'm a popular girl there acting as chief meeter and greeter. The owners took pity on me and gave me a sausage for breakfast.

In the summer it's been a busy time. I've been off to work with Dad meeting customers old and new. I do try to help with gardening, very good at digging, but it's not always what Dad needs somehow. There's one particular lady who really looks forward to meeting me. She is disabled and doesn't get out

much so I think I make her day when I visit. Another lady bought me a new bed for Christmas, she is so kind. It's so nice to be able to go to work with Dad and much better than being indoors. I've got used to working with Dad and settle better. I don't sleep in case I miss something.

We all went away to Swanage at the beginning of September. It's a lovely cottage we stay in. A nice big garden to explore. I do like a good roll but as it's on a slope I roll down hill. All sorts of adventures followed during the week; walking at Durlleston, on the steam railway (not bothered by the noise of steam) and Corfe Castle. Went to the gardens at Abbotsbury and managed to lead Mum and Dad back to the cafe twice. Nice cafe ⁶there with dog biscuits on the counter. I've also discovered the delights of playing with a tennis ball. So much that I have 5 in the car, mostly ones I've found.



This has been my home for 2 years now and I'm having lots of fun. Still helping around the house by getting washing from the machine and fetching the post. I'm doing my bit to keep Britain tidy by bringing home discarded tin cans. I've found a home where I can be cheeky and mischievous. I may be 9 but It's a new lease of life for me. Thank you to Joan, she has found me a wonderful home.

Bye for now.

Mollie

Hamish

Hamish was 13 years old and in a loving home with his owner who rescued him at 6½ years from a centre in the Western Highlands, but circumstances changed and he was now in a flat. Hamish has arthritis in his legs and shoulders so stairs were becoming an issue and his owner made the brave and heartbreaking decision to re-home him. I got a call in July 2016 saying Hamish was in foster care nearby and would I like to see him? That was it, “love at first sight”.

Hamish can be a bit vocal when he first meets people but soon settles down. He has a very gentle nature and wonderful temperament. He's a joy to take out, meeting and greeting people and any dog like long lost friends. He enjoys nothing more than a goo roll, especially if it is wet, muddy or smelly!. One word – “stubborn” shone through on his adoption sheet. This he lives up to. If, while out, I change our route or try to do something out of the norm, he just lies, refusing to budge until I give in and go his way.



He is small for a golden but makes up for size with huge character and fighting spirit. Despite on-going health issues he enjoys life, although at a slower pace. He is completely spoilt but at 14 I think he deserves to be.

He is my shadow, my rock and my very special little man. Special thanks to Rachel and Wendy and Southern Golden Retriever Rescue for giving me a wonderful and loving, loyal companion.

Kay fish.

Tess

When our old rescue cross-breed dog, Ben, passed away at Easter 2015 we decided to wait a few months and have a good summer holiday before getting another dog, but the house was so empty, we only lasted a few days – without a dog a house is simply not a home! Never having had a puppy before we did some internet research, decided Golden Retrievers sounded nice and put a deposit down on Bertie. Looking back that was incredibly naïve; luckily he turned out to be a healthy, happy, sock-eating monster! In fact we were so smitten with Bertie we asked Rachel Clark about taking on a rescue Golden. A few weeks later she rang to ask if we would consider adopting a five month old female with a serious heart condition. We had a few days to decide, which were spent researching and chatting with Bertie's vet about the puppy's condition, and of course we said YES!



Tess has Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia, a congenital malformation of the valves on the right side of her heart. She had an echocardiogram at 10 weeks old which showed that blood was regurgitating the wrong way through the valve, which means the heart has to pump harder to maintain circulation. The right heart muscle was already enlarged due to the extra work. Symptoms to look out for include generalised weakness, exercise intolerance, fainting, abdominal swelling, fluid accumulation and pale mucous membranes due to poor circulation of the blood. Affected dogs can have a reduced quality of life and a shortened lifespan. Mildly affected dogs may live a normal life for several years without clinical signs. Once a dog begins to show signs of regurgitation and congestive heart failure, the prognosis is poor.

Rachel and I went to collect Tess in November 2016. She was so sick on the way home we had to drive with the windows down! Her first meeting with Bertie went well; she seemed quite shy and timid initially. Over the next few weeks she continued to have some diarrhoea and vomiting due to a roundworm infestation, and then she developed a cough and a limp. Poor Rachel was inundated with messages asking for advice, as I behaved like an anxious new mother! As Tess's health improved so did her confidence and the shy little lady we brought home suddenly started jumping on Bertie, biting his ears and stealing toys out of his mouth! They have become the best of friends.

Tess is now 15 months old and apart from occasionally needing a rest on long walks, she is thankfully symptom free. Over the past ten months she has attended puppy classes at Wrotham, got her Bronze, Silver and (proudly) her Gold Kennel Club Good Citizen awards. She has learnt to swim, had a go at being a gun dog and been on holiday to Devon. Tess has grown up to be a beautiful, naughty, mischievous princess who brings us joy every day.

Our orders from the vet are clear – treat her like any other dog, let her run and play for as long as she is able, and that is exactly what we intend to do!

We are so grateful to Rachel and the rescue team for allowing us to look after Tess and for their continued support.



Jane, John, Lis and Phoebe Sheppard.

Anne Hodgson

(Our retired Chairman of Trustees)

During 2017 I retired from my role as Chairman of the Trustees, a position I have held since the first meeting of the Trustees in 2003. Following this retirement Gillian has asked me to write a few words about my involvement with rescue.

My very first involvement was in about 1982 when I held an exemption dog show (now Companion Dog Show) with the proceeds going to Southern Rescue. Joan Tudor who sadly left us in 2017 was kind enough to judge this for us and drew an amazing entry.

Soon after this under the guidance of Hilary Gibbs I started home vetting; this involved visiting the homes of prospective owners and sometimes going to meet dogs who needed re homing. Hilary covered a huge area and as Rescue became busier and busier in the 1980's it was decided to break this up. As a consequence I was asked to take over as a co-ordinator the part of her area covering West Sussex and East Hampshire. I can't quite remember when this started but have some lovely letters and photos dating back to 1988 from people thanking me, and letting me know how well their new family member is settling in.

The one dog I probably remember most was particularly difficult to re-home, he loved people but absolutely hated other dogs. Henry spent a good few months in kennels waiting for the ideal home, but whilst in the kennels he found a great friend in the owner's son who taught him agility and gave him lots of attention. I had a home to visit who wanted a dog, they were on the extreme of my area and in truth did not sound promising at all, so I kept putting the visit off. I eventually got around to making the home visit and seemingly my negative thoughts were well founded when I was proudly shown the outside area where the dog would be kept and how he would be chained. Something though did not ring true, and over a cup of tea I finally found out the truth that the dog would live in the house and indeed it sounded like he would have a wonderful life and be a major friend to her son who had some emotional difficulties. The prospective new owner was American and thought that we wouldn't want the dog to live in the house!!! The house was in the middle of nowhere, loads of opportunities for walks without meeting any other dogs, and a son wanting a special companion, it just had to be Henry. I now quote from a letter they sent me "Henry and ? are inseparable pals and the grin on Henry's face tells me he loves us and is happy here. This was a match made in heaven"

Then there was another dumped out of the back of a Landrover, no lead, no toys and unfortunately an open pyometra (infection of the uterus, a life threatening condition) so an emergency trip to the vet for an operation. The new home planned for her did not want her till she was better, panic what will I do, my set up just wasn't really right to bring in a strange dog following an op. A quick home visit, discussion over what was happening and I had found her a new home, where she could go immediately following the operation, what a star this new owner was! As she was the warden for a complex of homes for the elderly a new and wonderful pat dog was made. Another very happy ending making it all so worthwhile.

In 1995 for personal reasons I had to give up being a co-ordinator, but by 2002 things had settled down and I was delighted when Robbie Robinson and Peter Mills told me that Southern Golden Retriever Rescue was applying for Charity status and asked me if I would become a Trustee.

My time as a Trustee has been greatly enhanced by the tireless work of Gillian Robinson and her band of co-ordinators, they all do such an excellent job I thank them so very much.



The last of the original Trustees to leave, I am confident that the Trust has been left in very able hands and will continue to provide an excellent service for the benefit of Golden Retrievers, the breed I love and have so much to thank for.

Gillian also asked me to provide a photo of myself, the one I've chosen was taken four years ago of me and my three girls, Chelsey, Zoe and Ruby on holiday in Wales. Zoe sadly left us soon after this photo was taken, but my highlight with her was when she was one of the representatives for rescue on the Golden Retriever stand at Cruft's, she was an absolute darling & a fantastic ambassador for the breed.

Anne Hodgson

Yellow Dog Project

This project, which has been mentioned in some of the glossy dog magazines, was created to bring awareness of dogs who need space while training, recovering from surgery, or being rehabilitated. If you see a dog with a YELLOW ribbon, bandana or similar on the lead or on the dog, it means the dog needs some space. Please do not approach this dog or its people with your dog. It is an indication that the dog cannot be close to other dogs, so maintain distance and give them time to move out of your way.

There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

- It may have health issues
- It may be another rescue dog being rehabilitated and lacking confidence
- It may have had a bad experience with another dog, or just not be very friendly
- It may be a bitch on heat
- It may be in training
- It may be very old and arthritic
- It may be very shy or nervous

You can read about the project on www.YELLOWDOGUK.co.uk



SGRS Fun Day 2017

Fun Day Rescue Dog Parade

