

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Sittingbourne RGT Newsletter as I'm sure you know by now the aim of this newsletter is to try to keep you informed of what we have been up to.

I am pleased to inform you that at the time of writing this newsletter **we have homed 76 Greyhounds.**

In July we were invited to the Museum of Kent Life for their two day event which we are pleased to say went very well. Lorna brought along Blake and Tank and we took Lucky from the kennel.

Saturday was a bit rainy to start with but brightened up in the afternoon, Sunday was very busy and the Medway Greyhound Support Group came along to lend a hand.

We gave out a lot of information and as a result homed one of the dogs.

We would like to thank Xtreme Falconry, who were opposite us at the event, for donating a half day Falconry experience for our auction and also the Museum of Kent Life for their donation of a family ticket for entry into the Museum.

We were also invited back to Sainsbury's at Park Farm Folkestone this time Homer made an appearance and the local paper was there to do a feature on us. We took Elvis who has now become quite a celebrity with articles in the paper and a television appearance. The weather got worse in the afternoon but people still stopped to have a chat and in total we raised nearly £100 so a big thank you to Park Farm Sainsburys and everyone for their support.

On August 15th we held a charity night at the stadium which was supported extremely well with nearly 1000 people attending. Guest appearances from Tanya Stevenson of Channel 4 racing and Jonathan Hobbs from the Racing Post to name a few. For those of you who missed it here's a brief summary:-

A big thank you to **The South East Afghan Racing Club** who always put on a good show. **The Human verses Pony** race was great to watch. "The Cockney Kid" and "Mr X" ran against "Banjo" the pony with Grace the jockey. The only one who did not find it hard to run on sand was Banjo.....needless to say he won.

There was a presentation of a cheque for £950.00 to us which was from Martin Wodhouse, Lynne and Gerry Froggett who completed a short walk of "630 miles" with the support of their dogs, one of which was "Millie" who was one of the first dogs that we homed. The diary of their walk can be read on our website. The walk was also for ABC—Against Breast Cancer, and together they raised over £3000. WELL DONE and a big **thank you.**

Roger Cearns kindly donated a Mercedes van, which we had sign written courtesy of **BARMING SIGNS** of Maidstone and the maintenance will be done by **FULL CIRCLE** of Marden. We wanted maximum visual effect and the two pictures on it certainly exceeded our expectations. This van will help greatly with the events and will enable us to transport all the equipment such as the pop up tent, merchandise and the dogs.

"The Whistling Postman" Dale Howting MBE was there along with the Princesses of Sittingbourne and Swale to help with the Raffle. The money raised helped Dale reach his £200,000 goal. The RGT presented him with a silver salver to acknowledge this achievement.

The evening did not stop there.....We had an auction at the end of racing which we are pleased to say raised even more money.

The shop took a record £200..... The evening ended around midnight, a long night but well worth it, with over £5000 raised. A BIG THANK YOU to all of those involved in making the evening another success and one to be talked about for months to come.

Bill and myself were invited by Dale "The Whistling Postman" to Sittingbourne High Street where Meridian News were there reporting on Dale's £200,000 fund raising and the presentation of his award at our charity night. Not one to miss an opportunity Bill, myself and Elvis from the kennels went off to meet them and once again Elvis was the centre of attention and he loved it.

Our next meet and greet event was over three days at Farming World, Faversham on the 26th, 27th and 28th August. We took "Sally" from the kennels and our dog "April", Lorna took her dogs, "Pinky" and "Frankie" to lend a hand. The day was a bit slow at first and the dogs did what they do best and relaxed. Over the three days we raised £74.00 as well as giving out lots of information. There were lots of comments about the van and also the charity night which from the feedback received was a great night and "when would the next one be".

The Medway Greyhound Support Group met on 2nd September 2007 at Rainham Country Park, Gillingham as usual and the weather was superb. It was nice to see some new faces as well as the regulars. The group met on the first Sunday in the month..... so if you want to come along with your dog even if it is not a greyhound you are very welcome, it all helps in the socialising process. Some good news is that the Support Group will now include Sittingbourne RGT in their fundraising, so next year's sponsored walk will be to raise money for us as well as other charities.

The autumn edition of the "Homer" magazine features details of our 1st Anniversary charity night with photos plus a piece on the 630 mile walk by Martin Wodhouse, Lynne and Gerry Froggett.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We will be at The Goose Fair in Challock on 9th September with our stand and some dogs from the kennels so come along to see us and meet some of the dogs as well.

We will be at Pets at Home Sittingbourne on the 15th September 2007 and once a month thereafter. They have kindly let us use their adoption board in store plus allowing us to put our stand up outside the store with a couple of our dogs from the kennel. All details will be on our website.

MEET AND GREETES

The Meet and Greets are very important and we will continue to do as many as we can but help with them is urgently needed. The aim is to raise the awareness of the RGT's existence and to give information on the benefits of sharing your home with a retired greyhound so please help us help the greyhounds

If you can help even if it is only for an hour we would be most grateful, or if you have any suggestions of venues please contact Lorna on 07787 582698 or email us.

THE WEB SITE

The web site is still going strong and has a great deal of information on it and has now had over 14700 visitors! There are some novelty things on there to get peoples attention such as talking greyhounds for the children who hopefully will be the owners of the future. You can send electronic postcards to your friends and family free of charge with pictures of some of the greyhounds that are or have been in the kennels.

It's that time again....the summer holidays are over and our thoughts turn to Christmas. **THE RGT CHRISTMAS CARDS** are on sale together with a variety of handmade Christmas cards which can be purchased from the stadium shop.

RGT FUNDRAISING

The weekly Saturday raffle continues to be well supported and we thank everyone for their generosity.

Thank you to all our fund raisers and sponsors. The only limit to what we can do is our imagination, so ideas for fundraising or events are always welcome!

Don't be shy, give us a call!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT AN ORGANISATION'S SUCCESS IS ONLY AS GOOD IT'S VOLUNTEERS!

PLEASE NOTE

If you purchase items from Amazon please go to our website first and click on the link to Amazon from there, by doing it this way we get up to 5% of what you spend at no extra cost to yourself.

You don't have to search Amazon from our website or keep going back to register multiple items just click on the link once and all your purchases on that visit to Amazon will count.

Please tell all your friends and family to do the same and with your help we can ensure that even more of these lovable and rewarding dogs get the future they deserve.

Many thanks to everyone for their continued support.

INFORMATION

If you have any questions or require further information please contact BILL BUCKLEY on 07802 762115 or email info@rgtsittingbourne.co.uk