

October 30, 2018 – Maidstone Mobility Team

Fundraising

We would like to start by saying a big thank you to everyone that attended or helped at the Big Dog Walk at Leeds Castle on 14th October celebrating Guide Dogs Week. We raised just over £3000 so we are well on our way to naming another puppy! The day was a huge success and despite initial concerns over the weather, we managed to avoid the rain and we completed the walk in dry, mild weather.

A special thanks to butcher Jamie Wickens at The Ship in Winchelsea for donating 400 rashers of bacon for the bacon butties served after the walk.

If you'd be interested in attending the Big Dog Walk at Leeds Castle next year on 6th October, please let us know at the office and we'll send you an invite nearer the time.

Dates for your diary

The next My Guide training date is Tuesday 6th November in Hastings. Please let My Guide Ambassador Simon know if you'd like to attend.

And it may seem like a long way off in the future, but don't forget that all our volunteers are invited to Christmas parties on 1st December in Maidstone and 8th December in Eastbourne to celebrate the festive season with us. Please RSVP as soon as possible for catering purposes.

Staffing

You may remember that former My Guide Ambassador Cassi spent a year in Redbridge training to be a Guide Dog Trainer. We are pleased to say that she qualified in October and will begin training as a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor in January 2019. She will be training with new recruit Chloe, who started with us this summer. In addition to this, we have a fully qualified GDMI starting in November who is joining us from Guide Dogs New Zealand.

We have also welcomed back our Community Engagement Officer, Hetal, who has been on extended maternity leave / career break. She is looking forward to reconnecting with everyone so please get in touch with her if there are any access or engagement issues she can support you with.

Lastly, we have a new Dog Care and Welfare assistant working with us at the Mobility Team called Tierney. Please say hello to them all at the Christmas party!

Update on STEP/ service delivery

The second cycle of our new Standardised Training for Excellent Partnership (STEP) has been very successful and we are pleased to say that some of our longest waiting clients have now been matched. These dogs started training with their new owners on 15th October, and we are expecting great results from this class, which is due to qualify in November.

The office is very busy at the moment with a recent intake of 9 new STEP dogs who seem to be settling in very well. These dogs are due to be matched in the spring with our new trainee GDMLs observing the matching and training process.

We are expecting 4 additional dogs in November, so the lead up to Christmas will be very busy for everyone at the office!

Volunteering

We are excited to say that three of our volunteers/My Guide Service users are heading up to the People's Awards in Atherton on 2nd November. Anne Chapman, Elizabeth Berry, and Christine Noble have been nominated for having an excellent active My Guide partnership. Please join us in wishing them luck and watch this space to see if they are winners!

Contacts

For more information about anything mentioned in the newsletter, please contact the Maidstone Mobility Team on 03451430214 or email maidstone@guidedogs.org.uk

Please note that the content of this email can also be heard via a recorded message on the following phone number 01183373812.

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