

# Forward



**These pups are ready for their close-up!**

Our biggest litter for three years charms the media and the public

**Inside:** all the ways to support Guide Dogs at Christmas

Celebrating our My Time To Play service's third anniversary

Meet the staff putting their sighted guiding skills to good use



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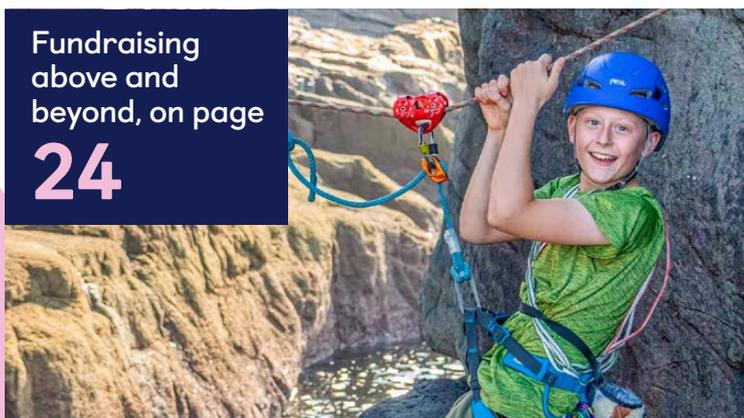
This image and on the cover: Fabio De Paola/PA Media Assignments

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# We'd love for you to join our pack

Whether you're an avid runner or looking to take on a new adventure, we have a variety of opportunities for you to get involved and make a difference.

- Cambridge Half Marathon – 8 March 2026
- Bath Half – 15 March 2026
- Paris Marathon – 12 April 2026
- Hackney Half – 17 May 2026
- Great North Run – 13 September 2026
- Royal Parks Half Marathon – October 2026

To join #TeamGuideDogs, check out [guidedogs.org.uk/challenge-events](https://guidedogs.org.uk/challenge-events)

If you're taking on your own sporting challenge, we'd love to hear from you [events@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:events@guidedogs.org.uk)



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## Editorial contributions

Send your stories to Forward by email to [forward@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:forward@guidedogs.org.uk) or addressed to 'Forward magazine' by post to the Head Office address below. Unfortunately, due to the volume of ideas we receive, we cannot acknowledge every item. We reserve the right to edit or refuse.

## Founding Editor

The late Captain Nikolai Liakhoff MBE FRZS

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# A welcome from Andrew

It is already two years since I joined our incredible charity, and every day I still get to see the incredible impact of our work.

We have been very busy in the past few months, not just with creating great partnerships and supporting an ever-increasing number of children and young people, but also with a commitment to the worldwide Guide Dog community as we hosted the 2025 International Guide Dog Federation conference.

During the event, we welcomed more than 70 different federations and organisations from around the world and showcased much of our work including our Guide Dog Academy, where we train the Guide Dog Trainers and Guide Dog Mobility Specialists of the future. It was an incredibly successful event topped off with a two-day development session at our brand new South East Regional Centre in Redbridge, London.

In early September we held our Annual General Meeting at our National Centre just outside Leamington in Warwickshire. During the meeting, we shared a video with some truly inspirational stories from guide dog owners, ranging from a young person just starting their guide dog journey, to someone also dealing with partial paralysis but who was supported by an incredible dog, enabling them to live the life they choose out in their community.



The video is now on our YouTube channel – just go to [youtube.com/@GuideDogsYouTube](https://youtube.com/@GuideDogsYouTube) and search or look out for the video titled ‘Life-Changing Partnerships: Callum, Kirsty & Their Journey with Guide Dogs’.

Within this edition of Forward, we are able to share a whole range of stories and updates including our People Awards where we get to celebrate the very best of those around us. Linking into our theme of people, we also have a great story about our longest serving member of staff – Glenda Webb – who has been part of our team for more than 55 years.

As we approach the Christmas period, I have no doubt that our Christmas cards will be in great demand as ever, and in this edition of Forward we also have a number of ideas for how you can donate or support Guide Dogs at this time of year.

I hope you enjoy reading all about our work, and thank you for supporting Guide Dogs.

**Andrew Lennox**  
Chief Executive, Guide Dogs

# News



## Introducing our beautiful new Tribute Tree



Stud dog  
Marty with our  
Tribute Tree

We have a new Tribute Tree, proudly displayed in the main reception area at our National Centre in Leamington, Warwickshire. This beautiful creation is a symbol of love and remembrance with bronze, silver and gold leaves engraved in memory of those who have inspired Guide Dogs Tribute Funds.

A Tribute Fund is a named fund set up by friends or family in memory of a loved one, meaning money can be raised in their name, over time, to support our life-changing work.

Once a fund has been set up, supporters can dedicate a leaf on the Tribute Tree from £240, as a one-off donation or spread across a year. Inscriptions are added every Spring, and leaves remain on the tree for a year and can be renewed by continuing to support the Tribute Fund.

Visit [guidedogs.org.uk/tribute-funds](https://guidedogs.org.uk/tribute-funds) or call 0800 953 0113 for more information about Tribute Funds, or for questions about the Tribute Tree, email [rememberalife@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:rememberalife@guidedogs.org.uk)

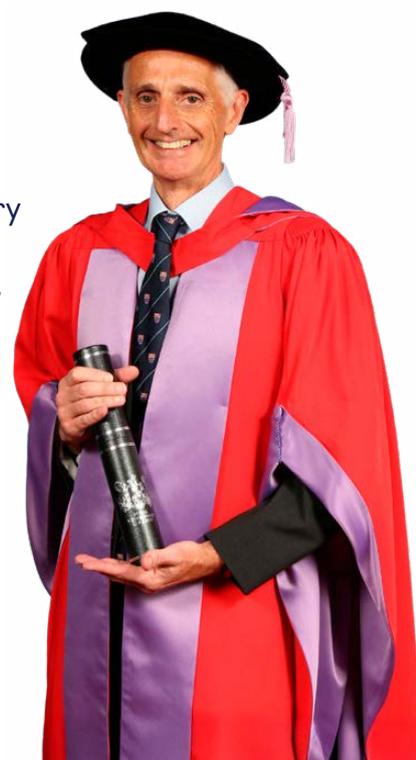
## Our Chief Veterinary Advisor awarded honorary vet medicine degree

Our Chief Veterinary Advisor, Professor Gary England, has been awarded an honorary degree of veterinary medicine by the Royal Veterinary College.

During its annual graduation ceremony, the college (RVC) honoured Prof England, who has also been dean of the University of Nottingham's vet school since 2005, alongside Dame Angela McLean, the Government's chief scientific adviser since 2023.

The accolades celebrated their significant impacts in the veterinary and scientific communities and notable contributions to research, education and public service.

As well as serving as our reproduction specialist, Prof England was also the first chair of the UK Veterinary Schools Council and held a leading role in the revised fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.



## Guide Dogs coins it in after kind donation

When Llanelli guide dog owner Stephen Ricketts helped with a house clearance, he discovered a dusty crate. "The householder had passed away and left a box with rope handles, full of old money," Stephen said. "His daughter invited us to take the coins for Guide Dogs but we couldn't lift the box, so we had to carry it out, half a bucket at a time. On the scales it weighed 56kg." The haul, including shillings, threepenny bits and halfpennies dating from 1946, has sparked a competition among local schools to collect expired and foreign currency for Guide Dogs.

Stephen's guide dog Crompton with some of the coins



## Our pups take over school assemblies

Guide Dogs has unleashed our first-ever livestream assembly to schools across the UK, celebrating the Guide Dogs Puppy Appeal. Broadcast via our YouTube channel, this fun and interactive event introduced pupils to guide dog puppies and explored the challenges of living with sight loss, starting important conversations about disability, inclusion and compassion. Free teaching resources and fundraising packs supported schools' journeys.

The assembly complemented our in-person speaker service and forms part of the revamped Learn with Guide Dogs programme at [guidedogs.org.uk/learning](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/learning). We hope to host further livestream assemblies throughout the year – bringing our key messages to even more young people.



Glenda with puppy Jean

## Congratulations to Glenda on 55 years of service!

Dog Welfare Specialist – South, Glenda Webb, celebrated 55 years of service to Guide Dogs in September. Glenda started as a Kennel Maid in September 1970 at our former Exeter base at Cleve House, a 17th century manor in 14 acres.

Glenda said: "It was an amazing time. We lived on-site in those days, there were six of us working in kennels. There was a housekeeper called Barbara Castle, who cooked, cleaned and did everything for us. She was with us for years, in fact until her death in 1981.

"We would put on celebrations for Guide Dogs Week every year – there would be flag days and a gazebo in the city centre, as well as our famed open days at Cleve which many of our owners and volunteers will remember. They were wonderful days."

Glenda has seen many notable events in our history including the excitement in March 1998, when Cleve House became the first (and only) Guide Dogs site to be visited by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

## Dog ID tags being replaced by flexitags



After a successful three-month trial, we're replacing the 'medallion' dog collar ID tags with non-dangling flexitags – an engraved aluminium plate on a silicon band that slides onto the collar. Flexitags were tested by a group of staff, service users and volunteers who found them easier to fit and less likely to snag or accidentally attach to the lead. Flexitags are also more hard-wearing and secure than the current tags, reducing long-term replacement costs. We won't replace all tags straight away but if your dog's current tag is lost or damaged, you'll receive a flexitag replacement. New puppies will also receive flexitags.

# A hat-trick of Guide Dogs milestones in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire fundraising group have celebrated three major milestones this year – the belated 60th anniversary of the group’s formation, and 40th volunteering anniversaries for Secretary Alison Kinch and Treasurer Doug West. Formed in 1963 by John and Gwen Broughton, Joyce Chandler and guide dog owner Eric Box, the group has now raised in the region of £1.4million for Guide Dogs. This group of



friends would attend local traction engine rallies and events with a stand and a large papier mâché German shepherd, raising funds and awareness. Today the group, made up of 20 volunteers, continues to raise funds through street and supermarket collections in Lincoln and the surrounding area, and working with local schools and organisations.

# Prisoners ensure collection boxes are in good nick

Our life-sized dog collection boxes are getting a new lease of life courtesy of the residents of Swansea Prison. Inmates have been busy restoring damaged and weathered boxes before returning them to Guide Dogs for use raising money in the community. The task includes cleaning, sanding, repairing and repainting the dog-shaped boxes, replacing missing eyes, or painting the features on afresh. Thanks to the dedication of staff and the enthusiasm of prisoners, the workshop has been an outstanding success. The boxes are bright, colourful and lifelike, and are being placed in key locations around South Wales.



◀ Jim Grundison, star of a feature about volunteers who restore life-sized dog collection boxes in Spring/Summer 2024 Forward, has celebrated restoring his 200th box at his home workshop in Livingston, Scotland.

# Forfar celebrates 60 years of serving communities in Scotland

Guide Dogs Scotland marked its 60th anniversary in Forfar in September (see page 28 for more about the event). Our original training centre in Forfar – the first in Scotland – was opened in 1965 by our former Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra. Beforehand, people with sight loss travelled to Leamington in Warwickshire to be partnered with a guide dog. In 2008, Princess Alexandra returned to open Guide Dogs Scotland’s current flagship training school. Both grand openings were community-focused events, with large crowds attending. There have been many significant milestones over the six decades, including Pat Miles becoming the first woman in Britain to qualify as a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (now Guide Dog Mobility Specialist) at Forfar in November 1972.



Natalie de Maid and Ruth Evans of Guide Dogs Cymru delivering a batch of boxes to the prison workshop

# People Awards 2025 – congratulations to all our winners!

Our People Awards 2025 in November recognised the stand-out efforts and expertise of our volunteers, service users and staff; the unsung heroes among us, quietly (or sometimes loudly) doing an amazing job and helping people with sight loss live the life they choose.

## The winners of our service user categories were:

- **Guide Dog Partnership of the Year** – Valerie Daniel and Cassie. Cassie, with retired guide dog Gayle, keep Val active after the death of her husband.
- **Inspirational Young Person of the Year** – Jakub Miotla. Guide Dogs has supported Jakub since primary school. He's now in college and a role model to other young people we're supporting in a college setting.
- **Outstanding Person of the Year** – Stuart Pearce, who also won a Living our Behaviours Award in the volunteer categories. Partnered with his first guide dog Olivia eight years ago, Stuart never turns down a request to volunteer for Guide Dogs.
- **Hero Dog Award** – Ridley, owned by Peter Boston, both in recognition of Ridley's service to Peter and the 11-year-old Labrador/retriever cross's contributions as an ambassador, therapy dog and loyal companion.

## Winning the volunteer categories were:

- **Royal Patron Award** – Sandra Boden, who is retiring after 43 years of volunteering. Sandra has had 293 puppies born in her home, puppy raised seven pups, and boarded countless more.
- **Volunteer Newcomer Award** – Tiernan Devine, who has supported the Northern Ireland team in the last 12 months with sighted guide training and becoming a Media Champion.
- **Living our Behaviours Award** – Christine Collier, an all-round volunteer who's skilled at recruiting new volunteers to Guide Dogs.
- **Living our Behaviours Award** – Thelma Wilson, for her "tireless drive" as coordinator of the Leeds fundraising group.
- **Living our Behaviours Award** – Stuart Pearce, as above.



## The winners of the staff categories were:

- **Royal Patron Award** – Kirstie Bower, Guide Dogs Academy Principal, for leading the successful shaping and delivery of the Guide Dogs Academy, a programme that supplies essential staff across the organisation.
- **Outstanding Achievement Award** – The Information & Cyber Security team, led by Chris Collins. The team has delivered a remarkable programme positioning Guide Dogs as a leader in cyber security within the charity sector.
- **Living our Behaviours Award** – Darren Paskell, Business Partner Assistive Technology, described as "sunshine in human form" in his nomination.
- **Living our Behaviours Award** – Lee Thresher, Legacy Engagement Officer, described as "the absolute ethos of [this] charity, putting his heart and soul into every aspect of his role and aftercare, [to go] above and beyond".
- **Living our Behaviours Award** – Nicky Poynton, Canine Health Administration Team Leader. Described in her nomination as the "epitome of what a manager should be" and "an incredible asset to Guide Dogs".

A woman with long brown hair, Siobhan Meade, is sitting on a red stool in a library. She is wearing a black floral patterned top and black pants. A black Labrador Retriever, her guide dog Marty, is sitting in front of her. Marty is wearing a yellow and white harness with a paw print and the words "Guide Dog" on it. The background features a large, dark brown tree sculpture with a yellow and white owl perched on a branch. There are bookshelves filled with books on either side of the woman. A sign on the bookshelf to the right reads: "\* Remember \* Please place your returned book back on the correct Shelf".

Siobhan Meade and  
her guide dog Marty

# Supporting our partnerships every step of the way

In any guide dog partnership, there can be bumps in the road. Whether it's a change in the guide dog's behaviour, or a health niggles, we're here to help get things back on track at any point in the partnership.

“We always take an individual approach to partnership support (also known as aftercare),” explains Liz Orme, Client Relationship Manager for the guide dog service. She adds: “While there are set times when guide dog owners can expect their local team to get in touch with them, every guide dog partnership is different, so we work with partnerships to provide personalised support based on their specific needs.”

Typically, this may mean more visits at the start of the partnership, as well as possibly towards the end. “The first six months after qualifying are really critical as that’s when problems can sometimes sneak in,” adds Liz. “Beyond our routine support and catch-ups, it’s important that guide dog owners let us know about any concerns or behaviours they’re struggling to manage. This could be anything that’s out of character for their dog, from worsening recall to becoming distracted by other dogs or being anxious on public transport. If something feels a bit off, it’s much better to get in touch with us – if a problem’s ignored, it can become more embedded.

“Sometimes all that’s needed to resolve the issue is a conversation, guidance and support. We might visit to assess the situation, give advice, and follow up to check how you’re getting on.”

Once the partnership is more established, most guide dog owners don’t need as much support and find an annual phone call is usually enough. However, unexpected problems can crop up.

Siobhan Meade contacted us after noticing that her guide dog Marty was sometimes hopping and skipping when in harness. Siobhan said: “I wasn’t sure if it was a potential issue with Marty’s legs or a behavioural change. I was really scared as Marty’s eight years old now, and I was worried that it might be something serious and he’d be automatically retired, but it was important to confirm what it was.

“A Guide Dog Mobility Specialist came out to see us, who also discussed the issue with a Dog Welfare Specialist. After arranging some scans and other vet checks, they fortunately didn’t find anything significant, and thought it was probably some minor soft tissue damage. It’s eased off a lot now thankfully. He does still do it occasionally, but it’s much less frequent.”

“**It’s important that guide dog owners let us know about any concerns or behaviours they’re struggling to manage.**”

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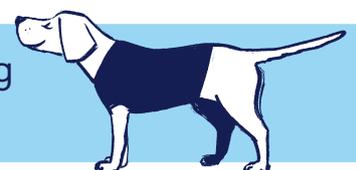


Liz Orme with her pet dog Bubbles

In the latter stage of a guide dog’s career, contact from us may increase and we begin to see the partnership in-person again. Liz says: “There’s no set retirement age for guide dogs but as your dog gets older, we’ll work with you to find the right time for their retirement, based entirely on your individual partnership, the working environment and your dog’s health.”

Siobhan concluded: “For your own peace of mind and for the welfare of your dog, it’s best to have an open dialogue about anything you’re concerned about and work together on a plan. Guide Dogs want to empower, support and do what’s in your, and your dog’s, best interests – early retirement is always a last resort and most issues can be ironed out. It’s about making sure your partnership is safe, you’re OK and giving you confidence. If in doubt, get in touch. You’ll feel happier and it might make a huge difference.”

Guide dog owners can contact Guide Line for support by calling **0800 781 1444** or emailing [information@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:information@guidedogs.org.uk)



# Star News



The Guide Dogs celebrity pro-am team (L-R) Sam Quek, Dan Walker and Michael McIntyre

## A hole-in-one proves to be an ace for Guide Dogs!

Guide Dogs was proud to be the official charity partner of the Betfred British Masters for a second year at The Belfry golf course near Birmingham – and the stars came out in full force for the pro-am event on day one.

Picking up their clubs to play for Guide Dogs' team were TV host and comedian Michael McIntyre, news and sports presenter Dan Walker, and Olympic Gold-winning hockey player and TV presenter Sam Quek MBE.

Before teeing off, the team met guide dog owners, volunteers and dogs, with Michael hosting a brief 'Questions About Guide Dogs' fun quiz with Dan and Sam.

Throughout the pro-am event, Guide Dogs staff and dogs were stationed on the first tee,

allowing all the celebrity teams a chance to come and say hello, including Gladiator 'Giant' (Jamie Christian-Johal), British Olympic swimmer Mark Foster, and Saracens and British Lions rugby union flanker Ben Earl.

Other notable names in attendance included England cricketers Joe Root, Jos Buttler and Liam Livingstone, who took part in an indoor blindfolded golf putt challenge, with Joe coming out on top.

Six-time Major Champion Sir Nick Faldo, who hosted the Betfred British Masters for the third consecutive year, also found time to meet guide dog puppy Faldo again, after they met for the first time at last year's event.

Thanks to a team of Guide Dogs volunteers and staff,

plus the DP World Tour team and generous Betfred contributions, the partnership raised more than £168,000 over the five-day tournament.



Liam Livingstone takes on a blindfolded putt challenge, cheered on by Joe Root (left) and Jos Buttler (centre)

# Guide Dogs in the Media



All pics: Fabio De Paola/PA Media Assignments

## Baker's Dozen of guide dog puppies is the cutest batch yet

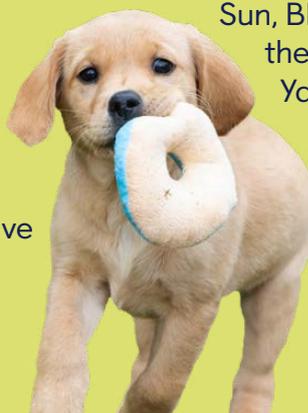
In October, we celebrated our largest litter for three years – a whopping 13 puppies affectionately known as the 'Baker's Dozen'.

The litter was born to four-year-old Yori, a golden retriever/Labrador cross, two months after meeting guide dog dad Otis, a yellow Labrador. The size of the litter is well above our average of seven or eight pups.

The 13 have been given bakery-themed names inspired by sweet and savoury treats in honour of our Guide Dogs Puppy Appeal, which encourages the public to fundraise and donate during the month of October.

The boys were named Biscuit, Crumble, Bagel, Crumpet, Rye, Tiger and Pretzel, and the girls were called Apple, Eccles, Cocoa, Chelsea, Custard and Ginger.

Yori raised ten of the puppies herself, while three were fostered to another guide dog mum with a smaller litter of the same age, to give them the best chance of survival.



All 13 puppies were reunited at our National Centre in Warwickshire, where BBC Breakfast were on-hand to film them playing. Puppy Development Advisor Andrea Deller and Scott Bailey, with his guide dog Milo, then appeared on the red sofa in the studio. They talked about the incredible difference these puppies will make as working guide dogs one day, and how people could support the Guide Dogs Puppy Appeal.

The litter also featured on Channel 5 News and ITV News, with Francesca Cadoux-Hudson sharing how her first guide dog Pebble has supported her, highlighting the life-changing difference the 13 puppies are destined to make as guide dogs.

The Baker's Dozen were mentioned on a host of BBC radio station news bulletins, and Breeding Dog Supervisor Tim Bloomfield chatted to BBC Radio 5 Live's drivetime show.

In addition to broadcast media, coverage and pictures of the gorgeous pups was included in the Independent, The Times, The Sun, BBC News' website, the Daily Mail, Metro, the Daily Express and internationally in Yahoo Australia.

The litter is the biggest at Guide Dogs since 2022, when German shepherd guide dog mum Unity had a record-breaking 16 puppies.

# Our My Time To Play service is flourishing – just like the children it helps!

At Guide Dogs, we know the life-changing effects of early intervention on the lives of children and young people with a vision impairment. Having access to the right opportunities, advice and expertise is vitally important – for them, and for the whole network of family and friends around them.



Our My Time To Play (MTTP) service started in 2022 as a pilot, and it was clear early on how valuable our young participants and their parents found the initiative. We rolled MTTP out to families across the UK in Spring 2023 and so, with its third anniversary coming up fast, here we celebrate the impact this service has had by sharing some success stories from our Habilitation teams.

MTTP is our charitable offering for children with a vision impairment from birth to four-years-old, plus their parents or carers, and their siblings. Each programme consists of seven sessions which include activities such as music and movement, crafts, sensory play and stories, enabling children to develop a broad range of skills through play and supporting their development. Since our nationwide roll-out, our Habilitation teams have delivered 83

programmes with nearly 1,500 children attending.

Sessions are run by our Habilitation Specialists, who are adept at highlighting the benefits of MTTP programmes to the families who attend. Habilitation Specialist Jenny in Coventry said: “There was a little boy called Ben who came to his first session and didn’t seem to engage. He was very hesitant in the beginning but by halfway through the programme, he was first-in-the-queue when it came to getting involved in the play elements, and he particularly loved the music time.

“His mum told us how much it meant to her to see him flourish, which was just so encouraging to hear. For many of our parents it’s a chance to share stories, get advice, and be surrounded by people who understand some of the challenges they face, in a truly supportive environment.”

Four-year-old Florence has attended the Southampton MTTP group for the past three years, attending nine programmes in total. She left to attend school in September, so the team threw her and mum Alice a graduation party to celebrate all she had achieved during her time with us.

Alice said: “The My Time To Play programme has been really rewarding for my daughter. She has thrived coming here and it’s been such a pleasure to watch her grow in confidence. It has such a lovely sense of community, and we now have lifelong friends.”

Habilitation Specialists Samantha and Katherine run sessions in South Tyneside, where a parent shared the following testimonial: “My Time To Play is the first place we went with our son where we felt at home, accepted, understood and everything was tailored to meet his needs.

Alice with her daughter, Florence

"[He] took his first steps at My Time To Play and came on leaps and bounds; he is full of confidence now. Every single member of staff has been amazing – they're all truly one in a million. We would be lost without this group and are forever grateful to have found it."

Some of our groups are run collaboratively with other organisations, often using their premises to host sessions. Sight Support in Hull is one local group we work with and their lead Vicky Day said: "This collaboration has made a powerful impact. We've seen [the children] explore the world around them in new ways, develop vital early skills, and share laughter and connection – with each other, with their families, and with the incredible individuals who make this programme possible."

All children learn through play and for children with a vision impairment, it's even more important that their early years give them experiences and tools to build on. In its first years as a fully-fledged service, MTTP has provided a great environment for children and parents. Our thanks go to everyone involved in developing and delivering our My Time To Play programme, and we look forward to the future.



To find out more about MTTP, visit [tinyurl.com/MyTimeToPlay](https://tinyurl.com/MyTimeToPlay)



**Christmas appeal**  
 Learn all about our festive Guiding Stars appeal on page 25



# Supporting Guide Dogs at Christmas

With Christmas traditionally being a time for giving, did you know that there are many festive-themed ways to support Guide Dogs?

For many, the first thoughts about Christmas focus on what gifts to buy for family and friends, and so the obvious place to start is our online Teemill store! In addition to the ever-popular Guide Dogs cards and wrapping paper, Teemill has an exclusive range of sustainable clothing, homeware and stationery. Our collection, which includes T-shirts, hoodies, bags, mugs and more, showcases our love for dogs with unique and charming designs that appeal to all.



Our gift collection showcases our love for dogs

Teemill products are made to last, printed to order and made from organic cotton using renewable energy, which means there's no overproduction and no waste. So not only does a proportion of all sales go to Guide Dogs, but by doing your Christmas shopping with us, you're supporting a better way forward for fashion. Visit [GuideDogsTeemillStore.co.uk](http://GuideDogsTeemillStore.co.uk) for the full range.

Some of our most popular Teemill products feature the guide dog puppies in our Sponsor a Puppy programme. There are three festively named guide dog puppies currently available for sponsorship – Parsnip is a curious golden retriever who loves sniffing out new sights and smells, and Merry is a playful Labrador/retriever cross who never turns down a cosy cuddle. Meanwhile

Clara, named after the main character in The Nutcracker, is a gentle Labrador/retriever cross who's always ready to make a new friend.

Supporters can sponsor a puppy for themselves, or as a gift for someone else, with sponsors receiving regular Pupdates via mail/email to help them follow their puppy's journey. They will also receive a photo album and photos of the pup, a personalised certificate, an adorable magnet and a gorgeous calendar at the end of each year, plus they'll have access to the puppy's exclusive Facebook group.

Sponsoring a guide dog puppy can be a gift that doesn't just celebrate Christmas – it changes lives every day. Find out more at [guidedogs.org.uk/Sponsor](http://guidedogs.org.uk/Sponsor).



# On the Campaign Trail

## Introducing our eye care support pathway

In July, we published the eye care support pathway for children and young people with a vision impairment in England. The pathway outlines the care and services families in England are entitled to, from initial appointments and diagnosis through to living well with a vision impairment.

For parents and young people this will be a vital resource, helping to guide them through their journey and provide a step-by-step outline of what support they can expect.

The pathway is the result of the combined efforts and expertise of more than 20 organisations from across the sight loss sector, alongside the input from many parents and young people.

You can find the pathway at [tinyURL.com/EyeCareSupportPathway](https://tinyURL.com/EyeCareSupportPathway).



## Party conference season round-up

This autumn, we attended many of the different political party conferences in the UK to highlight the work of Guide Dogs and our key campaigns. These events are one of the best opportunities in the year for us to connect with politicians face to face, raise awareness of the challenges people are facing, and call for real change.

This year, we spoke to around 180 MPs and many members of the devolved parliaments about the dangers of pavement parking and the importance of accessible streets.

Our stand was visited by Disability Minister the Right Honourable Sir Stephen Timms MP, the Minister for Local Transport Simon Lightwood MP, the Minister for Road Safety Lilian Greenwood MP, and Secretary of State for Education the Right Honourable Bridget Phillipson MP, who are all key decision makers in government. They each spoke to staff about our campaign and heard directly from our volunteers about their own personal experiences.



## Progress on safer bus stops

Since the launch of our report *Designing for Inclusion* last year, we've been highlighting the dangers caused by unsafe bus stop designs that force people to cross cycle paths.

We're pleased to say that the UK Government has acted on our concerns, called for a pause on the worst designs, and we're working with them on new statutory guidance which will apply to councils in England. Our teams across the rest of the UK are continuing to press the case for safe designs that enable everyone to use buses safely.

# Meet John...

## a driving force behind our first-class puppy deliveries!

Our amazing guide dogs, and the volunteers who support them along the way, are lucky enough to experience many important milestones on their life-changing journey. But one of the most exciting of all is 'puppy delivery day' – the day a puppy arrives in their new home.

Guide dog puppies are born in the homes of our breeding dog volunteers, who take care of them for the first few weeks of their life. When they are ready to leave their mum, they set off to their new homes, where their puppy raisers will help them learn and thrive.

The safe arrival of these little travellers is vital – and like so much else at Guide Dogs, we rely on volunteers to keep the show on the road. Volunteers like John, who has been driving for Guide Dogs for nearly 20 years.

John and his wife Sue moved to the Midlands in the late 1970s, and after seeing our trainers hard at work in their local town they began volunteering for Guide Dogs. Over the years they have raised 35 puppies, as well as looking after breeding guide dog mums and dads.





“

You are always aware you are carrying very valuable cargo, and that is part of why you do it. These dogs are very special.

”

When John retired, the idea of staying at home and putting his feet up wasn't very appealing, so he decided to take up a new role – driving. Some 19 years on and he still loves transferring dogs to their next home. John says: “You are always aware you are carrying very valuable cargo, and that is part of why you do it. These dogs are very special.”

As anyone who has ever worked with animals will tell you, they also keep you on your toes! Volunteer drivers must be able to handle passengers who will sometimes yap, play fight, sleep and nibble your ear. John added: “Puppies are also master escape artists, so you need eyes in the back of your head. But at the same time, there is nothing quite as beautiful as driving through Cumbria on a sunny day.”

And of course, puppy delivery day is always a highlight: “I take great pleasure and satisfaction in delivering these little bundles

of joy to puppy raisers. It's always such a happy and sociable event.”

Having recently celebrated his 82nd birthday, John is still enjoying his volunteer work with Guide Dogs – and of course the puppy cuddles which come as part of the job! John said: “I really like that I can provide a useful service to Guide Dogs and make worthwhile use of my time to help a good cause.”

Our volunteer drivers are based all over the UK, transporting dogs and equipment – whether that's to a fundraising event, specialist vet appointment, or to their next home. You can find out more about driving for Guide Dogs at [tinyurl.com/GuideDogsVolunteerDriver](http://tinyurl.com/GuideDogsVolunteerDriver), and more about the vital role that our puppy raisers take on at [guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser](http://guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser).

## Could you be an event volunteer?

Sometimes it's the little things that make events, such as the London Marathon or Great North Run, shine for those raising money for us.

Event volunteer is a unique role that involves cheering, high fiving, waving flags, spreading smiles, and celebrating with our runners –

your ambassador dog or puppy in training could be the star of the day.

Taking part for just a few hours can help us to support people living with sight loss. Email [eventvolunteers@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:eventvolunteers@guidedogs.org.uk) for more information.



# Putting sighted guiding skills to good use in the community

At Guide Dogs we are fortunate to have access to a range of training, and recently two staff members have had the chance to use their sighted guiding skills outside work – discovering for themselves just how rewarding it is to be able to help people with sight loss.

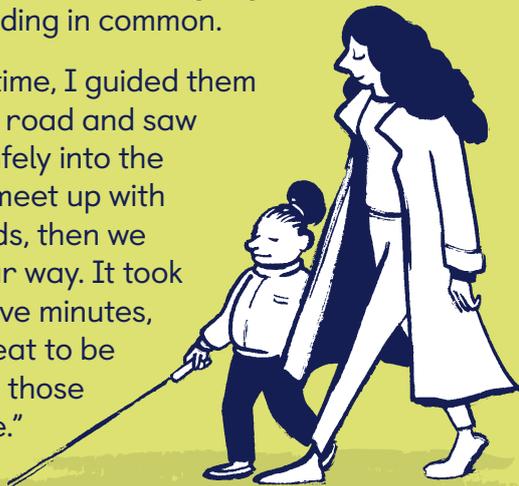
## Around town with Clare

Clare Hellery, part of Guide Dogs' Communications team, was in her local town centre when she was asked to help. She said: "As we passed a group of three guys with long canes, they asked if we were near the train station.

"We were, but there was a small but busy junction in between with traffic coming from multiple directions, and no proper pedestrian crossing of any kind.

"I mentioned that I had sighted guiding training and offered to guide them. Although we didn't know each other it felt very easy, as we had that 'language' of sighted guiding in common.

"One at a time, I guided them across the road and saw them all safely into the station to meet up with their friends, then we went on our way. It took less than five minutes, but felt great to be able to put those skills to use."



## Around family with Caroline

Our Veterinary Services Lead Caroline Goulton has been able to use her sighted guiding skills on a more regular basis. She explained: "My father-in-law lost his remaining sight recently, and I've found my sighted guiding skills invaluable when I'm with him.

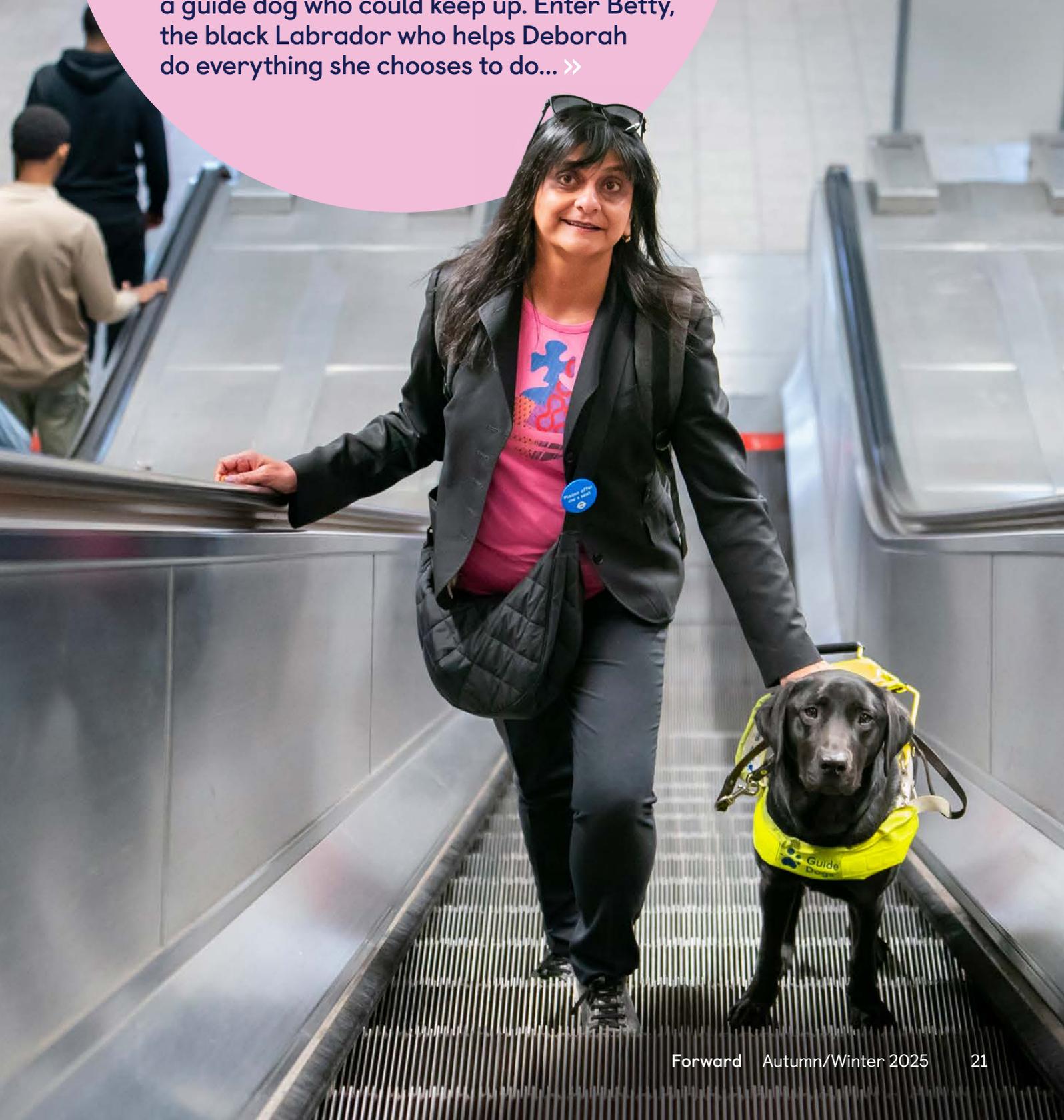
"It's about knowing what's important to describe in the environment, feeling confident about helping him to get in and out of the car – and reminding my children to tell him when they are leaving or entering the room.

"It's so much easier for us both now that we have a shared understanding of how to guide and be guided, and it means he's much more engaged in what's going on."

We'd like everyone to have these skills so that sighted guiding help is routinely available. To find out more about training for yourself or others, visit [tinyurl.com/GuideDogsSightedGuiding](https://tinyurl.com/GuideDogsSightedGuiding)

# Deborah's story

Deborah's busy lifestyle meant she needed a guide dog who could keep up. Enter Betty, the black Labrador who helps Deborah do everything she chooses to do... >>





## Deborah, who works as a senior civil servant in London, as well as sitting on the boards of several charities, said:

“Thirty-five years ago, I was told one day I would go blind. A routine eye test in my early 20s picked up some problems with my sight and I was referred to Moorfields Eye Hospital in London.

“There I was diagnosed with a rare form of macular degeneration. My consultant at the time gave me the best care, but also the best advice. He told me in ten years’ time, my sight would deteriorate so much I wouldn’t be able to drive, so he advised me to plan ahead in my life, decide what I wanted to do and how I wanted to live before that happened.

“And that’s exactly what I did. I decided to travel as much as possible. I got my motorcycle licence. And I settled down with my son in central London where I knew there would be good transport links.

“Sure enough, as the doctor predicted, within ten years my sight deteriorated and by my late 30s I was registered blind.

“I had always been interested in the idea of a guide dog when the time was right, so I reached out to Guide Dogs and they invited me in for an assessment. I was given long cane training and then in June 2012, I was partnered

with my first guide dog Lewis, a black Labrador.

“Lewis was just the best of the best. We were such a team, the pair of us, that my husband used to call us the ‘beast with two heads’ because we were so in-sync. But really that is the mark of a good partnership!

“

**I was diagnosed with a rare form of macular degeneration... and sure enough by my late 30s I was registered blind.**

”

"At the time I was working as a diplomat for the British Government and that meant a lot of travel. In his working career, Lewis travelled with me to 16 different countries and every time he was a total professional – my boss said he was our greatest asset."

Last year, Deborah was partnered with her third guide dog Betty, a black Labrador cross golden retriever. Deborah added: "She is an absolutely brilliant guide dog. I was specifically matched with Betty because I need a guide dog who can help me commute through central London and deal with a busy schedule. So she's been on the Tube, trains,

buses and I even recently took her on her first plane journey. I have taken her everywhere from Parliament to the pub!"

Betty has made herself at home in the various office locations the pair use. Deborah said: "She has a little bed beside my desk and takes me to and from the office every day.

"Betty is so clever she can assess any situation we find ourselves in and decide the best way through. And then at home she is really sweet and snuggly, but she also loves a romp in the park with her old classmate Rory. I've recently become a grandma

and Betty just adores my grandson, so I know they will become firm friends.

"When I first found out I would lose my sight one day, I naively thought I wouldn't be able to be as active, that I wouldn't be able to travel. But that couldn't be further from the truth. With Betty by my side I can go on holidays and travel all over the country for my work. We go on long walks or to the theatre.

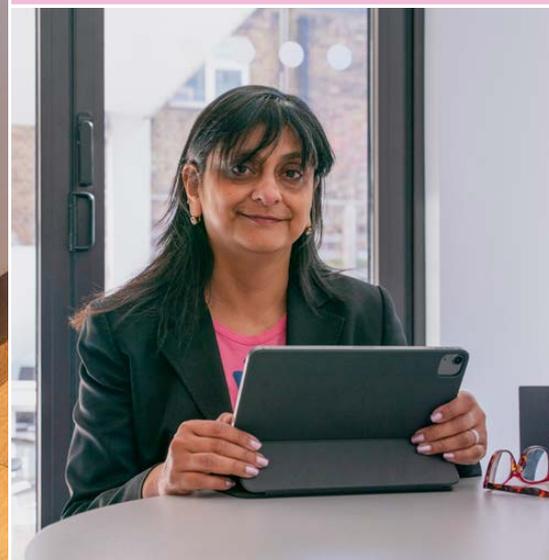
"With some small adaptations I am still able to do everything I choose to do – at work, at home and with my family. And my guide dog helps make this possible."



“

I was specifically matched with Betty because I need a guide dog who can help me commute through central London and deal with a busy schedule.

”



# Scaling new heights for Guide Dogs



**Meet Aden,** an 11-year-old adventurer who has become the youngest climber to take on Scotland's sea stacks while raising thousands for Guide Dogs' life-changing services along the way.

Aden has been climbing since the age of three, inspired early on by blind professional climber Jesse Dutton. Closer to home, he was deeply influenced by his best friend Fergus's family, who are dedicated Guide Dogs volunteers who foster dogs in training. Seeing first-hand the incredible difference guide dogs make, Aden wanted to give back, using his passion for climbing and unique skills to make a real impact.

With the support of his parents Lynn and Alan, and climbing instructor Jim Miller, Aden set himself the

challenge of scaling three of Scotland's famous sea stacks: Am Buachaille, Old Man of Stoer, and Old Man of Hoy, which rises to an awe-inspiring 137 metres!

In summer 2024 Aden, his father Alan and instructor Jim set out for their first climb: Am Buachaille. Reaching the base alone was an adventure, involving a two-hour hike and 25-metre swim across choppy waters! From there, Aden led the climb to the top, setting a new record as the youngest person to achieve it.

Amazingly, the very next day he turned his sights to the Old Man of Stoer, successfully leading the ascent.

Earlier this year, bad weather cut short Aden's attempt on the Old Man of Hoy, but he's determined to return soon to finish the climb.

So far, Aden's remarkable climbs have raised over £6,000, enough to name two future life-changers through Guide Dogs' Name a Puppy scheme. Fittingly, they have named the puppies Stoer, after his recent ascent, and Aden, after the inspiring young man himself! And this is only the beginning: Aden's dream is to keep climbing higher while helping others live fuller, more independent lives.



Puppy Aden

To find out more about Guide Dogs' Name a Puppy scheme, visit [guidedogs.org.uk/nap](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/nap)

# Make a dedication to a **Guiding Star** this Christmas



With Christmas just around the corner, we want to extend our warmest wishes to all our readers and hope you can enjoy the festivities with your loved ones.

Christmas can also be a time when our thoughts turn to those no longer with us. Many people like to share treasured memories and well-loved traditions to remember them at this time of year.

That's why we run our special Christmas campaign Guiding Stars every year, for people to dedicate a star in memory of a much-missed family member, friend or pet. Making a dedication in this way is an annual tradition for some people, and they take comfort in knowing their loved one's memory will live on

through our work, helping open up a world of opportunity for people with sight loss.

Last year, nearly 3,500 stars were dedicated in memory, with many supporters also choosing to make a donation. Thanks to these kind donations our 2025 Guiding Stars pup, German shepherd/golden retriever cross Ivy, has been named in recognition of everyone who was remembered last year. Ivy has the best qualities of both breeds – loyalty, intelligence and a gentle nature, which will make her a life-changing guide dog one day.

Thanks to all the heartfelt stars dedicated and the donations we receive, we can continue to support people with sight loss to regain their confidence and independence.

Ivy



To find out more about how to dedicate a star to your loved one, visit [guidedogs.org.uk/dedicate](https://guidedogs.org.uk/dedicate) or call 0800 953 0113

# Dear supporters,

I hope you enjoy reading these stories of how our dedicated fundraisers have supported Guide Dogs as much as I have, and I want to say thank you to each and every one.

Whether you're fundraising individually, like Margaret Jeffrey at the Kiltwalk in Edinburgh, you've teamed up with a loved one, like Dave and Margaret Burke, or you're a whole squad, like the Loxwood Park Rangers football club, you're helping people with sight loss to live the life they choose.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Terry McGrath**  
Chief Marketing &  
Fundraising Officer



**Dave & Margaret**

▲ True to their word, **Dave and Margaret Burke**, fundraisers and puppy raisers from Fife, completed their second Polar Plunge in August, jumping into the Arctic Ocean off the Svalbard archipelago in Norway. The couple appeared in Spring/Summer Forward having done a similar plunge in the Antarctic, with the two jumps raising more than **£700** for Guide Dogs. The Arctic water was 0.1 degree warmer than the Antarctic, taking it to a balmy 1.9°C (35.4°F)!



**Andrew & Lilly**

▲ Fundraisers from Swansea and Ammanford in South Wales put the 'bank' into the August bank holiday weekend, raising a magnificent **£2,847.93** by collecting in two different locations. The same weekend, our Llanelli group landed at West Wales airport, which was holding the Pembrey Dog Show. Andrew Windsor entered his guide dog Lilly into the show, where she took second place for **Most Appealing Eyes** and swept the board for **Waggiest Tail!** She was rewarded with rosettes, certificates and treats.

**Pembroke and District Male Voice Choir** in South West Wales raised **£550** for Guide Dogs with a concert featuring soprano Eva Rich, who helped to set up our Pembrokeshire fundraising group half a century ago. Eva delighted the audience with some of her favourite songs, including the Louis Armstrong classic, *What a Wonderful World*. Eva said: "Guide Dogs Pembrokeshire has put the fun into fundraising for 50 wonderful years, and we're so grateful to all the local people and visitors to the area who support our stall at Saundersfoot Harbour on Wednesdays and Fridays."



**Loxwood Park Rangers** amateur football club in Earley, Berkshire, donated the **£1,000** raised at their annual Brian Smith Memorial Match in September to Guide Dogs. The game, held in memory of the club's former manager and secretary, saw two teams of veteran Loxwood players draw 4-4

after 90 minutes at Reading University. Team manager Jason Harris said: "It was a brilliant day with a great turn out of players and supporters. I think Brian Smith would have been very proud." Guests of honour for the post-match presentations were Chris Owen and his guide dog Chester.



▼ The **St Andrews & East Neuk fundraising group** hosted their annual golf day at Drumoig Golf Resort in Fife, Scotland, in August, raising an incredible **£27,000**. More than 150 golfers took part in a lively Texas Scramble tournament which, along with a raffle and auction, raised what is a new record amount for the event. Danny Rooney, group co-ordinator and puppy raiser, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the success of this year's golf day. The support we received – from golfers, donors, and volunteers – was truly inspiring."



**Margaret & Heather**

▲ **Margaret Jeffrey** raised **£690** in September by taking on the longest of Edinburgh Kiltwalk's three lengths – the Mighty Stride, a 21-mile route finishing at Murrayfield Stadium. Margaret and husband John are puppy raisers, with current puppy Heather joining Margaret for part of the walk. Margaret said: "Her wagging tail and boundless enthusiasm were a real boost – as well as much-needed propulsion! I'd like to thank the Strathmore Woollen Company in Forfar for kindly giving me a cut of their beautiful tartan, designed specifically for Guide Dogs, and the very smart matching collar for Heather to wear on the day!"



**St Andrews & East Neuk fundraisers**

Thank you to our Supporters

▼ Guide Dogs' partnership with Maxol, Northern Ireland's family-owned forecourt and convenience retailer, has raised an incredible **£85,000** so far. This groundbreaking all-island partnership with Irish Guide Dogs aims to fund the training of at least six guide dogs. All 95 NI Maxol sites have played their part with collection boxes and staff-led events, as well as welcoming our volunteers in-store. Staff have also championed the PAWsome campaign, selling puppy-themed car air fresheners with all proceeds to Guide Dogs NI. Thanks to their efforts, Maxol recently named guide dog puppy **Daisy**, pictured here at Maxol Kinnegar in Holywood.



The 'Big Gig'

▲ The friends of **Steve Connolley** raised **£2,000** towards their £10,000 goal to name a guide dog puppy 'Stevie' after him, by holding a 'Big Gig' at Fylde Rugby Club in Lancashire. In June last year, Steve discovered he had a brain tumour and has since moved into full-time nursing care, sadly ending his volunteering for charities including Guide Dogs, and his time as the bass player in his three beloved bands. Steve's Guide Dogs team of guide dog owners, puppy raisers and pals contacted one of his bands to organise the gig, even managing a video-link to Steve on the night so he could see his friends and hear the music.

▼ **Reading Social Group** – a band of Guide Dogs staff based at our Reading Hub in Berkshire – organised a family fun day in September, raising **£3,796.28**. The total helped the group smash their £5,000 target to name a guide dog puppy **Andrea**, in honour of the hub's Senior Workplace Services Coordinator (and group linchpin) **Andrea Moss**.

Andrea was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in November 2024, but she has refused to let a gruelling treatment regime stop her from being the absolute dynamo that she is.



The **Airedale and Wharfedale fundraising group** in West Yorkshire has received a **£1,000** donation from the Bradford district branch of national friendship organisation, **The Oddfellows**.

When members learned that one of their own, **Renee Anderson**, was a long-standing supporter of Guide Dogs, The Oddfellows offered to donate the money collected from various fundraising activities. Renee and **Lin Sales**, with Lin's guide dog **Bronte**, went along to receive the cheque.



Our **Guide Dogs Scotland** centre in Forfar celebrated its 60th anniversary (see the News section) with a fun day in September that raised **£10,899**. Staff and volunteers from across the Guide Dogs family pulled out all the stops to make it a day to remember, with the local pipes and drums band opening the event, and numerous demonstrations, presentations, and competitions. Just under 1,700 people attended – approximately 10% of the population of the entire town!



## A Day in the Life Of...

# Vision Rehabilitation Specialist George Ferguson



“

I wanted a job where I was on the move, working with people, and where I could really tell that I was making a difference.

”

George said: “I had some experience of Vision Rehabilitation Specialists (VRs) through my previous work with them in local authorities, but as I found out more, I realised that I had a great perspective from which to help others.

“I’m severely sight impaired myself, and whilst everyone’s experience is different, I recognise some of the fears and uncertainties that sight loss can bring.

“In my role I listen to our clients, identify what would make the biggest improvements in their daily lives, and then work with them to build the skills and practical changes that make all the difference.

“That could involve using orientation and mobility skills to embed confident long cane skills, independent living tips so a client can cook for themselves (and others), or technology skills which can help in just about every area of life.

“The work we do can transform someone’s daily routine – and if they are waiting for a guide dog it’s essential preparation for that partnership. The better prepared you are, the higher the chance of the partnership being successful.



“My working days are very varied – for example, one of my clients this year has been Callum, who’s waiting for his second guide dog. He’s just moved house, so we’ve been learning new routes and keeping up his cane skills, so that he can commute to work and collect his child from nursery.

“I know he’s looking forward to being matched, but all the groundwork we’re putting in now will help when he has his new dog.

“He’s also an avid user of technology, so we’ve been exploring a range of devices and platforms which can help him. It’s amazing how fast things are developing in vision impairment tech, and really exciting to see what’s possible – and what’s coming!

“Because I work with our clients over a period of time, I have the huge privilege of seeing them move from what’s sometimes the most difficult time of their lives towards a place of confidence, with a belief that they can be independent. And whether that’s ultimately with a guide dog or not, they’re vital skills to have. Sharing that’s a pretty good way to spend your day, I think.”

# Congratulations to our new partnerships

New partnerships are listed by community team. Each listing details owner, guide dog, town, breed, Puppy Raiser, Breeding Dog Holder and Fosterer. Please note that only those who've given permission are included.

You'll see abbreviations showing each dog's breed: **L** for Labrador, **GR** for Golden Retriever, **GSD** for German Shepherd Dog, and **STP** for Standard Poodle. An "x" between letters (like **GRxL**) means a cross of those breeds. An asterisk (\*) is simply used to separate volunteer roles. Some names may be missing if a volunteer chose not to be listed.

Warm congratulations to all our new qualifiers, and heartfelt thanks to every person who made these partnerships possible.



## Belfast

David Archibald & Nessa L Alan Castle from Maybole \* Helen Daw from Bedford. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Miss Bethany Matthews from Forfar.

Tiernan Devine & Heath LxGR Nancy Bumpass from Newport-on-Tay, Stuart Donaldson from Cupar \* Sue Thornley from Evesham. Mr Stuart Donaldson from Cupar. Mrs Kerry Walker from Montrose. Mrs Andrea Kieran from Belfast.

Hazel Flannigan & Sapphire L Yvonne Madden from Glasgow \* Shasheill Kumar from Coventry. Mrs Fiona McCrae from Forfar.

Paul Hunt & Picasso L Carol Danskin from Dundee \* Jack Visser from Redditch. Miss Lesley McMahon from Forfar.

Leonard Makuch & Ben LxGR Yvonne McFadzean from Balfon \* Clare Jones from Northampton. Miss Rachel Ashley from Nuneaton. Mrs Gillian Rennie from Tayport.

Megan McKeown & Sadie LxGR Anne Roberts from Edinburgh \* Caroline Clifton from Henley-In-Arden. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Mrs Sally Campbell from Forfar.

Alex Patterson & Angus GRxGR Shelagh Davidson from Burntisland \* Charlene Jarman from Malvern. Miss Elaine Thomson from Arbroath.

Elizabeth Royle & Evie GR Jessica Nolan from Blairgowrie, Patricia Beck from Aberdeen \* Mr David Troup from Forfar.

## Birmingham

Patrick Adams & Nicholas GRxL Katherine Partridge from Pershore \* Natasha Church from Kidlington. Mrs Rachel Kiernan from Droitwich.

Neve Allen & Ronda GRxL Richard Bussien from Harleston \* Sarah Kite from Birmingham. Miss Barbara Hall from Leamington Spa. Mrs Yvonne Coppard from Peterborough. Mrs Danielle Nasser from Rugby.

Rita Bayliss & Ruby L John Morris from Coventry \* Claire Grainger from Stourbridge. Mrs Janina Maria Faulkner from Warwick. Mrs Claire Forrest from Bromsgrove.

Rosie Chandler & Dann L Sarah Brandon-Jones from Cambridge \* Mrs Nonie Toogood from Leamington Spa.

Lorna Clarke & Dede GR Katherine Tovey from Tewkesbury \* Sheila Northover from Derby. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Mrs Claire Martindale from Warwick.

Paul Diment & Milo L Nigel Spencer from Sutton-in-Ashfield, Rebecca Dowdeswell from Nottingham \* Claire Grainger from Stourbridge. Mr Adam Borley from Leamington Spa.

Luke Essex & Fern L Paul Hincks from Nuneaton \* Gillian Parsons from Leamington Spa. Mrs Suzanne Madle-Williams from Leamington Spa. Ms Nicola Mills from Warwick.

Zoe Garratt & Miller GRxGR Joan Hutton from Suffolk \* Margaret Powell from Rugby. Mr Julian Lines from Solihull. Dr Oliver Smith from Leamington Spa.

Kali Holder & Joss GRxGSD Julia Decoine from Tonbridge \* Mr Richard Edge from Flyford Flavell. Mr Christopher Watts from Warwick.

Philip Mills & Mason GRxL Leonora Tromans from Kidderminster \* Mr Paul Black from Solihull. Ms Patricia Rosas from Leamington Spa.

Clare O'Neil & Elsa LxGR Tracey Reaney from Nuneaton \* Kevin Reaney from Nuneaton. Mrs Tertia Latham-Marr from Redditch.

Claire Rush & Kevin LxGR John Defty from Birmingham \* Michelle Buckley from Leamington

Spa. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Lynsey Addy from Coventry.

Nicole Swingler & Karin GRxL Deborah Goldney from Northampton \* Karen Hillman from Rugby. Miss Alexandra Rotar from Warwick.

Andrew Taylor & George GR Trudie Guise from Nuneaton \* Kath Saunders from Shrewsbury. Mrs Louise Neill from Alcester. Mrs Hannah Knowles from Bromsgrove.

Mary Turner & Skipper LxGR Mavis Deptford from Grantham \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge. Mrs Nikki Rimmington from Kenilworth. Gaynor Cooper from Brierley Hill.

### Bristol

Mariella Coleman & Chrissie GRxL Anne Daly from Cheltenham \* Mrs Lee Butler from Banbury. Miss Debbie Fletcher from Bolton. Mrs Margaret Hawes from Bristol.

Hayley Davies & India GRxGR Robert Levine from Farnborough, Peter Ward from Chichester \* Mrs Louise Neill from Alcester.

Peter Gear & Skye GRxL \* Lisa Bird from Stratford-upon-Avon. Mr Paul Black from Solihull. Mrs Helen Starling from Bristol.

Roy Henderson & Matthew GR Debra Buffin from Burnley \* Mr James Ramsey from Bolton.

### Cardiff

Nicola Roseanne Cockburn & Nessa LxGR Catherine Aitken from Axminster \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa.

Laura Haynes & Nutmeg LxGR Cara Hodgkinson from Bristol \* Shirley Thomas from Daventry. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Mr Alex Wynn from Cardiff.

Brian Hobert & Bingley LxGR Linda Richards from Swansea \* Philip Maycock from Bromsgrove. Mr Allyn Usher from Bristol. Mrs Julia Watkins from Cardiff.

Elisa Ip & Mali GRxGSD Ellen Young from Basingstoke \* Mr Richard Edge from Flyford Flavell. Mr Stephen Sims from Hengoed.

Mared Jarman & Eden LxGR Jaqueline Meaney from Waterlooville \* Ruth Mercer from Warwick. Mr Jonny Mudge from Cardiff.

Maxine Miles & Zainab L Gill Maynard from Southampton.

Oliver Perry & Walter GRxGR John Phippen from Bristol \* Catherine Keenan from Halesowen. Ms Leela Cubillo from Lichfield. Ms Ceri Anderson from Cardiff.

Brenda Thomas & Laser GR Karen Damerell from Plymouth \* Sheila Northover from Derby. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Mrs Tracey Lane from Cardiff.

Louise Thomas & Zamba L Lynsey Willis from Stroud \* Mr James Moriarty-Simmonds from Cardiff.

Toby Williams & Nordi GSD Jeanette Thomas from Exmouth \* Edward Condry from Daventry. Mrs Rachel Rice from Cardiff.

### Cardiff Academy

Conrad Evans & Gemma STPxL Janice Boswell from Corsham \* Leigh Court from Balsall Common. Mr Michael Walters from Cardiff.

Paul Jones & Taggart L Jane Marshall from Calne \* Natalie Griffith from Warwick. Miss Jessica Lowe from Birmingham. Miss Cecilia St Clair from Cardiff.

George Plumridge & Eddy L Jacqueline Kandler from Wells, Dawn Armstrong from Bridgwater \* Miss Cecilia

St Clair from Cardiff. Miss Jessica Green from Cardiff.

### East Scotland

Jonathan Attenborough & Harry L Debra Slater-Banford from York \* Clare Strudwick from Leamington Spa. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth.

Michael Thomas Banks & Spirit GRxGR Olivia Bailey from Edinburgh \* Ingrid Moss from Warwick. Mrs Louise Millard from Lutterworth.

Samantha Gough & Helga L Gillian Barnes from Glenrothes \* Jack Visser from Redditch. Mrs Nina Jeffrey from Forfar.

Sheila Hands & Jennie LxGR Helen Cameron from Dumfries \* Sandra Cox from Marlow. Dr Jo Kandola from Leamington Spa. Mrs Lynne Brown from Forfar.

Sarah Hunter & Gretal L Anne Jackson from Doncaster, Robert Harris from Doncaster \* Helen Daw from Bedford. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Miss Lesley McMahon from Forfar.

Barbara Brown McDermid & Hero LxGR Leza Begg from Carnoustie \* Sarah Absolom from Milton Keynes. Mr Ian Crewe from Nuneaton.

Martha June Millar & Lambert LxGR Elaine Grant from Dunfermline \* Yvonne O Rourke from Shipston-on-Stour. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa.

Kathryn Jo Murphy & Harvest LxGR Fiona Donaldson from Laurencekirk \* Emma O'Halloran from Kenilworth.

Garry Martin Pitts & Holmes GSD Andrea Brogan from Glasgow \* Helen Evans from Redditch. Miss Kerry Tipper from Birmingham. Mrs Lesley Wilson from Forfar.

## East Scotland Academy

Clare Watters & Immy GRxL Daphne Barfoot from Belfast \* Maureen Ross from Redditch. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick.

Mike Young & Paul LxGR Ronald Ferguson from Glenrothes \* Mr Ian Crewe from Nuneaton. Ms Amy Monks from Forfar.

## Exeter

Martin Brown & Trinity GSD Lynda Moore from Plymouth \* Tanya Campbell from Chipping Campden. Mrs Liese Connolly from Exeter.

Denene Burton & Nisha LxGR Christina Ferguson from Marlborough \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mr Rob Peters from Axbridge.

Mark Cornall & Lindon L Emma Paolozzi from Sherborne, Alexis Drayson from Poole \* Mr Ryan Goldsmith from Exeter. Mrs Jasmin Rockey from Exeter.

Philip Lentern & Patti GRxGR Ian Robson from Yeovil, Iris Chapple from Martock \* Mr Samuel Stewart from Exeter.

Robert Lippiatt & Ella GRxGSD Ann Sambrook from Llanelli \* Sarah Lay from Solihull. Mrs Beverley Jamieson from Warrington. Mr Richard Barnett from Cheddar.

Alvis Merrall-Spiers & Alissa GRxL Caroline Tyson from Chippenham \* Jack Visser from Redditch. Mr Adam Drysdale from Whitchurch.

Sarah Nelson & Ruby LxGR Susan Hembrow from Taunton \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge. Mrs Kelly Smith from Exeter.

David Powell & Rowan GR Miriam Keen from Lydney \* Kath Saunders from Shrewsbury.

Mrs Louise Neill from Alcester. Mrs Frances Avent from Cheddar.

Alison Smith & Oreo L Pete Gilbert from Berkeley \* Mary Smith from Moreton-in-Marsh. Mrs Pamela Beable from Clevedon.

## Exeter Academy

Linda Bennett & Florence L Elizabeta Ivonciene from Basingstoke \* Suzanna Adey from Derby. Mrs Dulcie Parry from Rugby. Ms Helen Matthews from Exeter.

## Leamington

Sasha Archer & Johnny GSD Amanda Lewis from Warwick \* Edward Condry from Daventry. Mr David Kelsall from Warwick.

Hope Armstrong & Ruby LxGR Katie Essex from Leicester \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Jennifer Watson from Coventry.

Colin Bradford & Frankie LxGR Barinderpal Liddar from Coventry \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge. Mrs Joanne Feary from Warwick.

Laurent Cadet De Fontenay & Maggie GRxGSD Sarah Lay from Solihull, Angela Cutter from Solihull \* Sarah Lay from Solihull.

Lynne Cooper & Carol GRxL Christine Willson from Nuneaton \* Rachel Payton from Warwick. Mrs Sue Cox from Leamington Spa.

Andrew Cullen & Frank L Vibeke Haslam from Cambridge \* Mrs Nonie Toogood from Leamington Spa. Miss Nikki Saveker-Hughes from Leamington Spa.

John Elrick & Barrett LxGR \* Sue Davy from Oldbury. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Ruth Charsley from Leamington Spa.

River Fleming & Sarah LxGR Jane Ekins from Leamington Spa \* Jane Ekins from Leamington Spa. Miss Leah McFadden from Southam.

Pam Gardner & Thor GRxL Helen Hughes from Derby \* Charlotte Bates from Abingdon. Miss Emily Strong from Leamington Spa.

Sara Irvine & Ken L \* Sue Wilkins from Rugby. Mrs Dulcie Parry from Rugby. Mrs Eileen Teo from West Midlands.

Sonia Kelly & Mason LxGR Emily Presgrave from Boston \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Miss Hannah Finch from Leamington Spa.

Simon Kennedy & Danny LxGR Samantha Bevan from Cambridge \* Clare Jones from Northampton. Miss Rachel Ashley from Nuneaton.

Jaina Mistry & Dave GRxL Abigail Phillips from High Peak \* Sarah Hicks from Solihull. Mrs Sally Ashley from Warwick.

Remi Runciman & Theodore GRxL Caroline Page from King's Lynn, Valerie Christian from King's Lynn \* Fiona Steed from Worcester. Mrs Karen Bird from Leamington Spa.

Leonie Seymour Milsom & Sage L Christine Neeson from Nottingham \* Natalie Griffith from Warwick. Miss Jessica Lowe from Birmingham. Mrs Janet Evans from Warwick.

Catherine Sinclair & Leo LxGR \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mr Marcio Medeiros from Leamington Spa.

Brian Smith & Helios LxGR Mandy Price from Kidderminster \* Linda Mallette from Worcester.

George Upfield & Hugo GRxL Christopher Garman from Bury St. Edmunds \* Katrina Hirons from Bromsgrove. Ms Esther Holmes from Meriden. Miss Amber Herraty from Kenilworth.

Dean West & Peter L \* Jane Kempton from Leamington Spa. Mrs Nonie Toogood from Leamington Spa.

## Leamington Academy

Gordon Bowdery & Bert LxL Sharon Marks from Daventry \* Kate Wood from Leicester. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Mrs Julia McCaughan from Leamington Spa.

Allison Burton & Carlton LxGR Julie Greenwood from Southwell \* Ms Joelle Maurice from Warwick.

Josie Head & Terberg LxGR Audra Champion from Grantham \* Denise Phelps from Bromsgrove. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Laura Gimes from Leamington Spa.

Elaine Maries & Dune LxL Susan Roberts from Northampton \* Kate Wood from Leicester. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Mr Michael Potter from Leamington Spa.

Louise Morley & Michael L Victor McMillen from Nottingham \* Mrs Gail Johnson from Warwick. Mrs Rachael Green from Stratford-upon-Avon.



Derise Williams & Illya GR Rob Mattholie from Cheltenham \* Julian Graeme Paynton from Newbold On Stour. Mrs Louise Neill from Alcester. Miss Rachel Strudwick from Leamington Spa.

## Leeds

Carlie Dagg & Patty GR Cheryl Lloyds from Penrith \* Leigh Court from Balsall Common. Mr Graham Bulmer from Wigan.

Michelle Mara & Gwyn GRxGR Peter Turpin from Hull \* Claire O'Keefe from Leamington Spa. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Miss Nadia Odonnell from Leeds.

Kyle Marshall & Marshall GRxL Marian Young from Alnwick \* Maureen Ross from Redditch. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Mrs Claire Jackson from Leeds.

Linda Matthews & Prue GR Alan Reeves from Walsall \* Leigh Court from Balsall Common. Mr Terry Pemberton from Leigh.

Gary Mercer & Kay LxGR Susan Jones from Stoke-on-Trent \* Michael Jones from Leicester. Miss Sarah Sheasby from Bromsgrove. Mrs Louise Ireton from Bolton.

Evelyn Richardson & Delphi LxGR Traci Carr from St. Helens \* Avril Lancaster from Birmingham. Mrs Hannah Allen from Kenilworth.

## Leeds Academy

Paul Duckett & Ben GRxL Neil Sale from Carnforth \* Terry Crane from Kidlington. Mrs Louise Millard from Lutterworth. Mrs Louise Ireton from Bolton.

Robert Fakes & Hudson L Catherine Ridgeway from Hull \* Charlotte Knox-Wright from Hook. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Mrs Elizabeth Waddington from Leeds.

Edward Freakley & Bali LxGR \* Sandra Boden from Rugeley. Miss Carole Stewart from Manchester.

Robin Kirkpatrick & Monty LxGR Graham Rackstraw from Bradford \* Ruth Weatherall from Coventry. Mr Chris Allen from Kenilworth. Mrs Jennifer Lovegrove from Forfar.

Dorothy McCrea & Edgar GRxGR Emma Greenacre from Cleethorpes, Sandra Meehan from Keighley \* Sarah Absolom from Milton Keynes. Mr Richard Edge from Flyford Flavell. Mrs Claire Jackson from Leeds.

Carol Slocombe & Dixy GRxL Jackie Gallagher from Glasgow \* Emily Turley from Birmingham. Mrs Lee Butler from Banbury. Mrs Judith Ball from Leeds.

Megan Smithson-Booth & Pilot LxGR Ashlea Dean from Huddersfield \* Carla Tucker from Rugby. Mrs Dulcie Parry from Rugby. Mr Richard Mark McKnight from Sheffield.

Dean Thornton & Zack L Sandra Carslaw from Wirral \* Elizabeth Tovey from Coventry.

Dorothy Toyne & Erik L Margaret Elaine Lloyd from Huddersfield \* Kat Bray from Swadlincote. Mrs Nikoleta Maria Christopoulou from Leeds.

Sophie Wilson & Hayley GRxGR Maggie Fearnley from Darlington \* Charlene Jarman from Malvern. Mrs Laura Smith from Leeds.

## Liverpool

Jessica Driver & Tyra L Claire Holmes from Rugeley \* Elizabeth Tovey from Coventry. Mrs Shirley Jukes from Wigan.

Joan Garrett & Wilson GRxL \* Rosemary Jackson from Harbury. Mrs Sarah Byrne from Banbury. Mr James Ramsey from Bolton. Mrs Lynda Hamblet from Bolton.

Valerie Want & Ismay L Paul Williams from Liverpool \* Karen Rankin from Leamington Spa. Miss Rachel Ashley from Nuneaton. Mr Jimmy McAdam from Manchester. Mrs Jennifer Chilton from Prescot.

Jill Whitmore & Stevie STPxL Sue Phillips from Macclesfield \* Leigh Court from Balsall Common.

## London

Emma Bailey & Timbo L James Gibbs from Milton Keynes \* Claire Cobbold from Leamington Spa. Mr Christopher Booth from London.

Ray Chan & Ibson L Karen Funnell from Brentwood \* Mr Henry Murdoch from London.

Lynn Cox & Spike LxGR Lynn Young from Wokingham \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge. Mr Chig Kumar from London.

Margaret England & Lilla GRxL Angela and Paul James from Ramsden Heath \* Sarah Kite from Birmingham. Mr Paul Crowe from Kenilworth. Mr Dennis Lloyd from Woodford Green. Mrs Gwendolin Klisa from London.

Martin Foden & Buddy LxGR Lindsey Thomas from Dunstable, Godfrey and Jayne Mather from Leigh-on-Sea \* Michelle Buckley from Leamington Spa. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Janie Bird from Woodford Green.

Paul Goodwin & Brook LxL Donald Baker from Sevenoaks \* Kate Wood from Leicester. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Miss Lee Strode from London.

Ann Griffin & Ralf GRxL Gordon More from Horsham \* Karen Robbens from Leamington Spa. Ms Leela Cubillo from Lichfield. Ms Rachael Farrington from London.

Georgina Guest & Tawney L Ann Fletcher from Lytham St. Annes, Karen Wardle from Ashton-Under-Lyne \* Rachel Bagley from Coventry. Mrs Elizabeth Holding from Tewkesbury. Miss Emma Lees from Worsley.

Rosie Hallatt & Haden L Alan Marshall from Rochester \* Mr James Haley from Hainault.

Sorena Hitchin & Orlando L Sarah Judd from Swanley \* Mrs Nonie Toogood from Leamington Spa.

Wendy Hulford & Rosemary GRxL Karen Pilkington from Ashford \* Fiona Steed from Worcester.

Angelina Jong & Dora LxGR Agatha Ferrao from London \* Sandra Boden from Rugeley.

Stuart Keegan & Chester GRxGR Mary Taylor from Witham \* Donna Kennedy from Woodstock.

Jean Murphy & Iris GRxL Tony Fleming from St Albans \* Karen Hillman from Rugby. Miss Avery Johnstone from London.





James O'Driscoll & Frazer L Chris Lovatt from Bishop's Stortford \* Claire Grainger from Stourbridge. Mrs Janina Maria Faulkner from Warwick. Miss Lalitha Nagarur from London. Ms Liberty Ip from London.

Mark Pemberton & Polly GRxL Susan Piekos from Chatham \* Ally Stokes from Newton Regis. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Mrs Tricia Winn from Ilford.

Kathryn Reece & Jolly LxGR \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Ms Tracey McDermott from London.

Joseph Rendle & Bramble LxL Elizabeth Endacott from Deal \* Sue Davy from Oldbury. Miss Sarah Lawson from London.

Carla Savage & Corinne LxGR Sandra Reid from Manchester \* Carla Tucker from Rugby. Mrs Dulcie Parry from Rugby. Ms Wendy Jackson from Leigh.

Sarah Sheard & Laurie GRxL Susan Franz from Cranbrook \* Ally Stokes from Newton Regis. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Miss Kirsty Andresen from London.

Louise Wright & Charley L Heidi Lister from Colyton \* Gillian Parsons from Leamington Spa. Ms Katie Lea from Bristol. Ms Ana Stamenkovic from London.

## Maidstone

Michelle Barnes-Moss & Lois L Katie Collins from Sevenoaks \* Janet Paget

from Rugby. Hannah Bent from Northampton. Mrs Jessica Massey from Maidstone.

David Best & Nick LxGR June Bagnall from Wirral \* Curtis Huntson from Redditch. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Mrs Shirley Jukes from Wigan.

David John Chandler & Ben GRxGSD \* Sharon Faulkner from Coventry. Mr Paul Black from Solihull. Mrs Claire Rotter from Maidstone.

Sheila Hunt & Iris GRxL Lesley Molloy from Maidstone, Annie Hawkins from Tonbridge \* Mrs Sarah Byrne from Banbury. Miss Joanne Newham from Maidstone.

Davinder Kullar & Nellie LxGR Shirley Turner from Woking \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge. Ms Rita Patel from Ilford.

Alan Smith & Omar L Paul Hiley from Middlesbrough \* Christine Spratt from Rugeley. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Mrs Kirsty Thomson from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Caroline Smith & Vernon L Una Fife from St Bees \* Christine Spratt from Rugeley. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Mrs Emily Dover from Wigan. Miss Matilda Spice from Rochester.

Cyril Thomas & Amber L Jeanette Dare from Yeovil \* Irene Scott from Warwick. Mr Simon Siu from Manchester.

Charles Westby & Davina GRxL Phyl Shaw from Hitchin, Raymond Brett from Welwyn Garden City \* Rachel Payton from Warwick. Mrs Jenny Berriman from Epping. Mr Gene Roberts from Maidstone.

## Manchester

Terri Balon & Cinnamon GRxL Denis Rudd from Chorley \* Catherine Atkinson from Stroud. Mr Richard Edge from Flyford Flavell. Mrs Lynn Soper from Bolton.

Jemma Brown & Mary STPxL Rwth Sloan from Cheadle \* Leigh Court from Balsall Common. Mrs Donna Roberts from Wigan. Ms Alison Banks from Carlisle.

Alan Dickinson & Austin LxGR Robert Wakefield from Wirral \* Mr David Crook from Wigan.

Lee Anthony Forrester & Wakely L Howard Morgetroyd from Chester \* Lisa Hunt from Stratford-upon-Avon. Dr Lucy Neat-Ward from Leigh. Mr Josh Ward from Leigh.

Juan Greggor & Bert L Yvonne Brown from Manchester, Gemma Fairhurst from Wigan \* Catherine Keenan from Halesowen. Mrs Elizabeth Holding from Tewkesbury. Miss Laura Woodward from Bolton.

Craig Alastair Kennedy & Ulrika GRxGSD Suzanne Griffin from Stockport \* Lorraine Mellor from Birmingham. Mrs Sarah Byrne from Banbury.

Alan McLoughlin & Oscar L Elizabeth Rose from Wigan \* Amy Martin from Rugby. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Miss Holly Moreland from Manchester.

David Southworth & Brian L Alison Cooke from Wirral \* Anna Holden from Merstham. Mrs Sarah

Piggott-Denison from Stourbridge. Mrs Olwen Foster from Bolton.

Steph Syson & Preston GSD Helen Lance-Marsden from Liverpool \* Trudy Evans from Coventry.

Lorraine Virco & Gigi L Lloyd Parkinson from Liverpool \* Elizabeth Tovey from Coventry. Mrs Carrie Robinson from Manchester.

## Manchester Academy

Nina Chesworth & Donovan GRxL Joan Harris from Bury, Jane Birtwistle from Bury \* Margaret Langford from Warwick. Miss Kirsty Regan from Wigan.

Matthew Cliff & Pat L Terry Elks from Newcastle Under Lyme \* Anna Holden from Merstham. Mrs Sarah Piggott-Denison from Stourbridge. Mrs Catherine Leslie from Manchester.

Alba De Toro Nozal & Lotta L Paul Sears from Whitchurch \* Christine Spratt from Rugeley. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Ms Joanne Hutton from Manchester.

Andrea Richardson & Georgie L Edward Prendergast from Manchester \* Helen Daw from Bedford. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth.

Roberta Webber & Saxon L Kelly Pipe from Ellesmere Port \* Helen Daw from Bedford. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Mrs Samantha Waldie from Leigh. Mrs Anna Trotman from Bolton.

## Newcastle

Michael Crozier & Reed from L Peter Raymond from Harrogate \* Shasheill Kumar from Coventry. Mrs Caroline Rogerson from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Angela Johnson & Pedro L Ian Ramsay from Gateshead, Helen Douglas from Sunderland, Terence Towers from Ashington \* Miss Elaine Thomson from Arbroath.

Colin Light & Harry L Tony Killing from Newcastle upon Tyne \* Christine Spratt from Rugeley. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Mrs Jeanette McGhie from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Derek Ridley & Cammie L Anne Rowse from Dunfermline \* Shasheill Kumar from Coventry. Miss Susan Deuchars from Dundee.

Denise Ross & Mario GRxL Diane Grice from Doncaster \* Emily Turley from Birmingham. Mrs Lee Butler from Banbury. Mr Edward Moss from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Andrew Sanderson & Cotton L Jean Ellis from Normanton \* Shasheill Kumar from Coventry. Mr Graham Pearce from Newcastle upon Tyne. Ms Diane Ogleby from Middlesbrough.

Caroline Smith & Carly LxGR \* Kevin Reaney from Nuneaton. Mrs Tertia Latham-Marr from Redditch. Miss Olivia Seidu from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Rachael Storey & Calluna L Anne Smith from Glasgow \* Lisa Hunt from Stratford-upon-Avon.

Arthur Turner & Jonty L Susan Hall from York \* Helen Daw from Bedford. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Miss Sarah Mills from Forfar.

## Newcastle Academy

Mark Banham & Tori GRxL Charlotte Wells from Barnetby \* Katrina Hiron from Bromsgrove. Ms Esther Holmes from Meriden. Mrs Susan Scott from Cramlington.

Amy Boath & Nova L Joyce Delves from Doncaster \* Becky Robertson from Banbury. Miss Hollie Bland from Newcastle upon Tyne

Graham Godley & Phelps L Gerard McLaughlin from Glasgow \* Clare Strudwick from Leamington Spa. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Mrs Sally Campbell from Forfar.

Kayley Moss & Declan GRxL Susan Rook from Durham, Trevor Cowling from Yarm \* Linda Monk from Worcester. Ms Leela Cubillo from Lichfield. Mrs Stephanie Birkett from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Darren Shaw & Leo LxL Elinor Johns from St. Albans \* Kate Wood from Leicester. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Mrs Fiona McCrae from Forfar.

Bushra Syeda Naqvi & Tessa L Bruce Pillinger from Leconfield, Allan O'Brien from Hartlepool \* Becky Robertson from Banbury. Mrs Jane Pattinson from Cramlington.

Phillip Ward & Matty LxGR Andrew Mallett from Newcastle upon Tyne \* Kevin Reaney from Nuneaton. Mrs Tertia Latham-Marr from Redditch. Mr John Holden from Newcastle upon Tyne. Miss Sarah Mills from Forfar.

## Nottingham

Stephen Bowles & Phoenix GRxL Jagraj Dhaliwal from Leamington Spa \* Mrs Laura Norrie from Leamington Spa.

Michael Davies & Quarry L Ingrid Raby from Chesterfield, Lynsey Murphy from Mansfield.

Mark Finney & Joseph GRxL Becca Taylor from Loughborough \* Natasha Church from Kidlington. Mrs Louise Barker from Stratford-upon-Avon.

Anne Harley & Hilly GRxGSD Anna Adams from Daventry \* Sharon Faulkner from Coventry. Mr Paul Black from Solihull. Mrs Anne Cadwallader from Southam.

Toni Harrington & Dolly LxGR Matthew James from Northwich, Kirsten Gostling from Buxton \* Sue Thornley from Evesham. Mrs Clare Topping from Kenilworth.

Nicola Simpson & Pearl L Laura Carlisle from Nottingham \* Mrs Cindy Wilson from Nottingham.

John Wilkinson & Manny GRxGR Tony Jose from Woodhall Spa \* Louise Collins from Nuneaton. Mrs Sarah Byrne from Banbury.

## Nottingham Academy

John Eames & Oak LxGR Joy Flanagan from Hanley Swan \* Emma O'Halloran from Kenilworth. Miss Tamsin Armstrong from Warwick.

Barrie Howard & Reg GR Emma Armes from Norwich, Amanda Bell from Lincoln, Yvonne Pitt from Lincoln \* Elizabeth Tookey from Warwick. Mrs Sheila Oram from Warwick.

Sally Lockwood & Indigo GRxL Patricia Hicks from Sutton Coldfield \* Sue Padget from Kettering. Mrs Janice Edlin from Nottingham. Mrs Janet Davies from Lincoln.

Joe Loughrey & Chris GRxL Claire Wilson from Stratford-upon-Avon \* Karen Robbens from Leamington Spa. Ms Leela Cubillo from Lichfield.

Liam O'Brien & Bertie GRxGSD Lesley Edwards from Rugby \* Sarah Lay from Solihull. Mrs Lesley Edwards from Rugby. Miss Christine Davies from Nottingham.

## Peterborough

Kenneth Braybrook & Ulric GR Rick Priestley from Mansfield \* Mrs Elaine Oliver from Radway Warwick.

Tracy Brunelli & Betty GRxL Rebecca Conquest from Nottingham \* Mrs Suzanne Madle-Williams from Leamington Spa.

Jasmin Evans & Trelfa LxGR Zarena Fulford from Stratford-upon-Avon \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge.

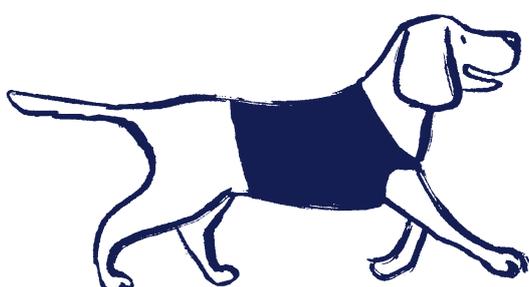
Benjamin Gibbs & Murphy LxGR Olivia Leatt from Newark \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge. Mrs Alison Evans from Leamington Spa.

Sylvia Hawes & Myra GRxGR Timothy Bigelow from Bicester \* Mrs Louise Neill from Alcester. Mr Alex Cook from Leamington Spa.

Kirsty Kelly & Mooky L Kevin Murphy from Nottingham \* Janet Paget from Rugby. Hannah Bent from Northampton. Ms Lindsay Spicer from Warwick.

Kevin Pemberton & Maple L Karen Howard from Worcester \* Claire Cobbold from Leamington Spa. Dr Samantha Jones from Warwick.

Kirsten Ridgewell & Harley GRxL Sue Halford from Birmingham \* Karen Hillman from Rugby. Miss Anna Ferrari from Warwick.



Sandra Robinson & Flossie GRxGR Julie Jackson from Redditch \* Lyn Brehaut from Worcester. Mrs Lee Butler from Banbury. Mrs Lindy Hobbs from Droitwich.

## Reading

John Algar & Jacko GRxL Derek Lloyd from Wirral \* Maureen Ross from Redditch. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Mrs Leanne Atherton from Wigan. Ms Jessica Janes from Reading.

Ian Belcher & Jay LxGR Ruth Davis from Hampton \* Sandra Boden from Rugeley. Ms Carolyn Porter from Tadley.

Lucy Coltman & Keith L Christine Oakenfull from Halstead \* Mr Ian Crewe from Nuneaton. Mr Robin Smith from Reading. Susan Loader from Lightwater.

Philip Fearon & Geoffrey LxGR Claire Reed from Colne \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Julie Matkin from Reading.

Irene Randall & Hazel GRxL Noreen Davison from Marden, Tonbridge \* Karen Robbens from Leamington Spa. Ms Leela Cubillo from Lichfield. Dr Vicki Aldmington from Reading.

Lisa Seston & Tess L David Winson from Barnetby, Karen Rankin from Leamington Spa \* Karen Rankin from Leamington Spa. Miss Rachel Ashley from Nuneaton. Mrs Hilary Morjaria from Wokingham. Miss Hannah Bereziuk from Reading.

Peter Sheppard & Gucci LxGR Pat Kerbey from Shrewsbury \* Clare Jones from Northampton. Miss Rachel Ashley from Nuneaton. Miss Grace Selley from Cullompton.

## Reading Academy

Mary Collyer & Murphy GRxGR Lynne Fear from Solihull \* Janet Leggett from Upper Longdon. Mrs Sarah Colledge from Stratford-upon-Avon.

Rob Fenton & Falcon L Ian Alloway from Camberley \* Miss Stephanie Burt from Reading. Mrs Angie Gomm from Reading.

Leslie Fowler & Dejay GR Abigail Robertson from Chelmsford \* Sheila Northover from Derby. Mrs Sally Sleath from Warwick. Mrs Nicola Tough from Reading.

Hilary Horwood & Kate GRxGR Jessica Meanwell from Wokingham \* Mrs Louise Neill from Alcester. Mr Mark Jones from Reading. Dr Heather Jeffery from Reading.

Ropafadzo Matibenga & Sable GSD Martin Elliott from Ilford \* Edward Condry from Daventry. Miss Cassandra Scott Hayward from London.

Rachael Neville & Hawk LxGR Gill Manning from Stowmarket, Shirley Law from Basildon \* Jean Dyson from Stourbridge. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Jane Flower from Reading.

Mary Pitman & Star L Marion Wilkinson from Dartford \* Catherine Gray from Brackley. Mr Doug Harrower from Bedworth. Miss Cami Cameron from Basingstoke. Mr Noel Gonzalez-Jones from Reading.

Brian Stalley & Oasis L Lisa Attwood from Gravesend \* Claire Cobbold from Leamington Spa. Ms Petra Minott from Reading.

## Redbridge

Paula Caulfield & Samson L Michael Cracroft from Ashford \* Mrs Lisa Weaver Jones from St Albans.

James Cooper & Dougal L Charlotte Field from Saffron Walden \* Mrs Diana Anisimova from London.

Ramin Cyrus & Hogan GSD Susan Franz from Cranbrook \* Tanya Campbell from Chipping Campden. Mrs Jennifer Bunce from Loughton.

Karl Damant & Ida GSD Sylvia Waite from Exeter \* Lorna Morgan from Birmingham.

Antonio De Lillis & Lister L Marian Keep from Tunbridge Wells \* Amy Martin from Rugby. Mrs Nonie Toogood from Leamington Spa. Ms Gerry Kiefer from London.

John Dove & Missy GSD Fiona Learmont from Stevenage, Jim Hutchinson from Stevenage \* Lesley Cox from Chard. Mr Antony Shine from Loughton.

Sarah Fallon & Kirk GRxL Julia McClellan from Leatherhead \* Rachel Payton from Warwick. Mr Richard Miller from Borehamwood. Mrs Marian Goddard from Brentwood.

Maria Georgiou & Pascoe GSD Roy Brown from Hemel Hempstead \* Helen Evans from Redditch. Miss Kerry Tipper from Birmingham. Mr Daniel Moore from Romford.

Jean McDonagh & Asti L Graham Sargent from Sheerness \* Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa.

Judith Spencer & Jasper LxGR Clare Smith from Bristol \* Jane Ekins from Leamington Spa. Ms Tracy Stubbs from Manchester.

## Sheffield

Sally Anne Cousins & Thorn GRxL Hannah Roberts from Market Drayton \* Catherine Atkinson from Stroud. Mr Richard Edge from Flyford Flavell. Miss Janet Anderton from Wigan.

Karen Duncan & Malt GRxL Emma Rice from Altrincham, Pete Mitchell from Wolverhampton \* Lynn Dignan from Rugby. Mr Richard Edge from Flyford Flavell. Mrs Victoria Kean from Wigan.

Shaun Gilson & David L Donna Howson from Rotherham, Lynne Ellerby from Berwick-upon-Tweed \* Elizabeth Tovey from Coventry.

Marcelina Goldyn & Nixon GSD Debbie Rankine from Harrogate, Wendy Raisbeck from Saltburn-By-The-Sea \* Mrs Carol Evans from Kingswinford. Mrs Jessica Whyke from Barnsley.

Ian Lees & Cane GRxL Burleigh Laverty from Antrim \* Carol Miles from Hinckley. Mrs Jacqui Williamson from Forfar. Mr Paul Winter from Beverley.

Bessie Parker & Velma L Pauline Carney from Perth \* Alaine Powell from Birmingham.

Maria Rawson & Grant L Steve Poole from Coventry \* Amy Martin from Rugby. Mrs Nonie Toogood from Leamington Spa. Ms Debbie Hyde from Wigan.

Carolyn Seddons & Wheat L Jorja Gill from Sheffield, Emma Lovell from Mexborough \* Karen Rankin from Leamington Spa. Miss Rachel Ashley from Nuneaton. Miss Jessica Parker from Leeds. Mrs Anne Procter from Beverley.

Susan Simmons & Delice GRxGR Susan Mason from Dronfield, Shirley Page from Hull \* Michael Jones from Leicester. Mr Greg Butler from Banbury. Miss Sarah Clarke from Leeds. Mrs Kwai White from Beverley.

Maurice Tomlinson & Dottie GRxL Karen White from Gateshead, Alistair Peter from Hexham \* Amanda Bourne from Nuneaton. Miss Debi Cull from Manchester. Mr Alan Wilkinson from Driffield.

## Sheffield Academy

Rebecca Hazeldine & Phoebe L Karen Swann from Sheffield \* Susan Robinson from Worcester. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Natalie Hamilton from Mexborough.

Lee Roberts & Isha STPxL Ann Burdett from Sheffield \* Gail Winnett from Birmingham. Mrs Tracy Waite from Rotherham.

Karen Russell & Daisy STPxL Wendy Bell from Redcar \* Kat Bray from Swadlincote. Mrs Linda Landsberg from Milton Keynes. Ms Katherine Mills from Leeds. Mrs Anna Hunt from Sheffield.

Tracey Sargeson & Claudia L Christine Hogg from Sheffield \* Elizabeth Tovey from Coventry. Miss Tahla Senior from Doncaster.

## Shrewsbury

Paul Bowen-Carter & Lee L Helen Dagnall from Shrewsbury \* Mr Andrew Ryder from Shrewsbury. Mrs Holly Radford-James from Shrewsbury.

Linda Ann Delap & Patch LxGR Karen Sweetman from Leigh \* Carla Tucker from Rugby. Mrs Dulcie Parry from Rugby. Miss Helen Whitehouse from Shrewsbury.

Mark Edge & Charles L Helen Bateman from Oswestry \* Shasheill Kumar from Coventry. Mrs Helen Myers from Shrewsbury.

Chris Gwilt-Hoofe & Colin GRxSTP \* Miss Maddy O'Neill from Cardiff.

Liz Hammer & Ellison L Pamela & Michael Peters from Walsall \* Christina Sibbald from Wantage. Mrs Sharon Broer from Coventry. Mrs Jacky Ruston from Telford. Mr Neville Swain from Shrewsbury.

Janie Johnson & Davy L Jo Griffiths from Wirral \* Christine Spratt from Rugeley. Mrs Lynn Richards

from Coventry. Mrs Sharon Southall from Shrewsbury.

Edward Lort & Bliss L Judith Richardson from Blackpool, Abigail Hargreaves from Burnley \* Helen Daw from Bedford. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Ms Natalie Brinsford from Shrewsbury.

Sally Messham & Fay GRxGR Jan Wood from Wordsley, Kathryn Pimble from Oswestry \* Charlene Jarman from Malvern.

Julian Northall & Simba LxGR Simon Haynes from Newcastle \* Ann Sparks from Sutton Coldfield. Mrs Kate Evans from Shrewsbury.

Gordon Smith & Alba GR Susan Miller from Plymouth \* Kathryn Harmer from Solihull. Mrs Sarah Byrne from Banbury. Mrs Rhian Davies from Old Colwyn.

Hannah Stevenson & Coco LxGR Linda Whitwell from Northampton \* Clare Jones from Northampton. Miss Rachel Ashley from Nuneaton. Mrs Natalia Payne from Shrewsbury.

Jennie Walsden & Scoop LxGR Matthew James from Northwich, Claire McLeish from Northwich \* Avril Lancaster from Birmingham. Mrs Hannah Allen from Kenilworth. Mrs Sara Lord from Shrewsbury.

Kayleigh Wright & Marni L Claire Williams from Stoke-on-Trent \* Clare Strudwick from Leamington Spa. Mrs Barbara Stone from Kenilworth. Mrs Sarah Ho from Shrewsbury.

## Southampton

Robert Allen & Dewey LxGR Lynn Attwood from Aldershot \* Ruth Mercer from Warwick. Mrs Jo Griffiths from Southampton. Mrs Sylvana Hayes from Bournemouth.

Danny Barker & Autumn LxGR John McCurdie from

Kendal \* Emma O'Halloran from Kenilworth.

Julia Barry & Vic LxGR Derek and Pamela Leng from Yeovil \* Marilyn Tennant from Stourbridge. Mrs Holly Barr from Exminster.

Beth Payne & Dawn LxGR Sylvia Doyle from Ivybridge \* Tracy Jones from Carterton. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa. Mrs Aneli Starks from Eastleigh.

Katherine Riddle & Kaya GR Natalie Cotton from Eastleigh, Maureen Etheridge from Bournemouth \* Clare Jones from Northampton. Mr Mark Edwards from Warwick. Mrs Lucy Hammond from Eastleigh.

## West Scotland

Linda Anderson & Blue L \* Christine Spratt from Rugeley. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry.

Caroline Boyle & Oscar L Elaine Barrie from Edinburgh \* Jon Starkey from Malvern. Mr Ian Crewe from Nuneaton. Mrs Emma Kelly from Glasgow.

Laura Bradley & Che LxGR \* Patricia Hicks from Sutton Coldfield. Mrs Christine Jones from Forfar.

Gordon Cowie & Maple LxGR Phil Beniston from Filey \* Emma O'Halloran from Kenilworth. Mrs Kelly Clark from Glasgow.

Angus Cross & Della GRxL Janice Reith from Aberdeen, Emma Corse from Montrose \* Linda Monk from Worcester. Ms Leela Cubillo from Lichfield. Mr David Taylor from Dundee.

George Dunn & Liberty L Jean Bird from Dumfries \* Sonia Evans from Milton Keynes. Mrs Julie Trent from Leicester. Mr Malcolm Wake from Forfar.

James Gallagher & Champ GR Chris Blakey from Falkirk \* Mrs Louise Neill from

Alcester. Mrs Sheonagh Henderson from Forfar.

Louise Gamble & Jess GRxGR \* Charlene Jarman from Malvern. Mrs Kelly Clark from Glasgow.

Sam Hunter & Keaton L Jackie Cummings from Earlston \* Christine Spratt from Rugeley. Mrs Lynn Richards from Coventry. Ms Jennifer McLeod from Glasgow. Mr Ross Lyons from Glasgow.

Clare McIntosh & Lindsey GRxGSD Denise Shute from Inverurie \* Lorraine Mellor from Birmingham. Mrs Sarah Byrne from Banbury. Mrs Wendy Milne from Forfar.

Noeleen Mellers & Ebony LxGR Caroline Martin from Shillford \* Sandra Cox from Marlow. Dr Jo Kandola from Leamington Spa. Mr Huw Roberts from Glasgow. Mrs Lesley Niven from Motherwell.

Linda Mooney & Dani GRxL Brenda Moody from Berwick-upon-Tweed, Robert Cresswell from Alnwick \* Margaret Langford from Warwick. Mrs Claire Brown from Kirriemuir.

Laura Steedman & Luna L Matthew James from Northwich, Adam Davis from Warrington \* Susan Robinson from Worcester. Miss Katherine Gunn from Leamington Spa.

## West Scotland Academy

Alison Anne Brownlie & Devon L Norma Harrison from Scarborough, Isabella Inman from Pudsey \* Lisa Hunt from Stratford-upon-Avon. Ms Elizabeth Hughes from Carnoustie.





## Our puppy reunion Inspired by Audrey's story

I was inspired to write in after seeing the story in Spring/Summer Forward, when a lady called Audrey met the guide dog she sponsored as a puppy.

As Puppy Raisers, our story is somewhat unique. Our last puppy, Manny, had developed a dislike of getting into cars or vans since leaving us, so his Guide Dog Mobility Specialist Pete Smith asked us for help. After several visits to Pete and Manny on training walks in Nottingham, we were able to show that Manny was happy to 'work' and get into our car,

as he always had been. And so Pete decided to match Manny with a friend of ours called John in our village, as John didn't have a car and we would be able to be his transport and support. Six months later we socialise regularly with them both, along with our present guide dog puppies. Letting us watch our puppy-raising efforts actually give life-changing support in the form of a successful working guide dog has been wonderful!

Tony Jose



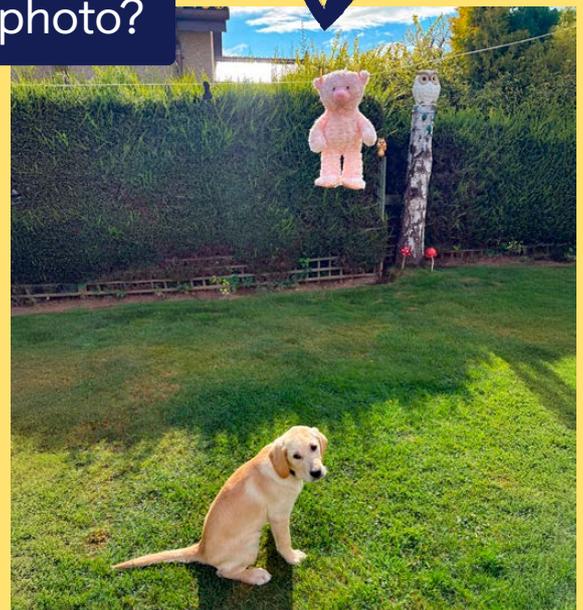
## Caption Competition What would you caption this photo?

Golden retriever/Labrador cross guide dog puppy Susy had to wait for her favourite teddy to dry after he got wet lying out in a rain shower. Susy, who was 14 weeks old when this picture was taken, is being puppy raised by Elaine and Bill Grant from Blairgowrie in Perthshire, Scotland.

### Send your caption suggestions to:

Forward, Communications Team, Guide Dogs, Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3YG or email [forward@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:forward@guidedogs.org.uk) with your name, address and a daytime phone number.

The winner gets a £10 Marks & Spencer voucher.



### And the last competition winner is...

Mrs Janet Tolley from Bewdley in Worcestershire, with the caption "Well, you wouldn't need doggy bags with that one!" Congratulations, Mrs Tolley!

**Competition rules:** This competition is 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 competition the Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of the rules. The closing date for the competition is 31 January 2026.

# Pets at Home visit Guide Dogs' National Centre

We were delighted to welcome associates from Pets at Home to our National Centre near Leamington Spa in Warwickshire for a special content capture day.

The visit offered a fantastic opportunity for the team to learn more about the life-changing work of Guide Dogs and meet a wide range of our incredible volunteers, alongside some very special dogs of all ages!

The day was filled with engaging conversations, heartwarming moments, and plenty of wagging tails. Pets at Home staff visited to gather stories, photos and videos for an upcoming feature in the Pets Club My VIP magazine, helping to shine a spotlight on our partnership and the amazing people who make it all possible.

As a charity beneficiary of the Pets Club Lifelines scheme, Guide Dogs receives vital support in the form of vouchers that we can spend in Pets at Home stores to purchase toys, treats, enrichment games, and equipment for our dogs. These resources play a key role in their development, wellbeing and training, making a real difference in their journey to becoming life-changing guide dogs.

“

**It was a truly inspiring day, and we're grateful to Pets at Home for their continued support in helping us raise awareness.**

”



A photo taken at the content capture day

We're proud to showcase the vital roles our volunteers play, from our Brood Dog Holders and Puppy Raisers to our dedicated fundraisers. Their commitment and compassion are at the heart of everything we do, and we're thrilled to see their stories shared with a wider audience.

It was a truly inspiring day, and we're grateful to Pets at Home for their continued support in helping us raise awareness and celebrate the impact of our volunteers.

Pets Club members can pick up a free copy of the Pets Club My VIP magazine in-store from 6 December, also available online, and for £2.50 for non-members.

A heartfelt thank you to all Pets Club members – your involvement in the Lifelines scheme helps us provide the enrichment and care our dogs need to thrive, while also empowering our volunteers to continue their incredible work.



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