

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

I am pleased to inform you that at the time of writing this newsletter **we have homed 58 Greyhounds.**

In **February** we were contacted by the Medway Greyhound Support group which have a monthly walk around the Riverside Country Park in Rainham on the first Sunday of every month. The aim of the group is to offer help and advice to new and existing owners and to socialise the greyhounds. Myself and Lindsay have attended regularly ever since and are pleased to report that several of the greyhounds we have homed also attend regularly and it is now getting quite a following with up to 62 greyhounds coming along! It has been reported that members of the public actually come along just to see all the greyhounds!

See the support page of our website for more information and pictures, it is well worth a look.

The **15th March** saw the second quiz night held at the stadium and once again the turnout was very good with 62 people showing their support and the evening raised **£462**. Many thanks must go to John and Kay Chapman who organised the evening for us and once again they did an excellent job.

Thanks also to volunteers Linsey and Abbey Harland without whose help we would have struggled.

The bar staff once again volunteered their time and the track laid on the buffet so thanks go to them for their continued support.

We also attended the Detling Game Fair on **31st March and 1st of April** where despite the cold wind a lot of people turned up and we had a good time talking to all the people and giving out lots of information on homing greyhounds.

It was nice to see some of the Greyhounds we had helped home come along and drag their owners with them.

Poor Tiny was not too sure of all the crowds of people and the various breeds of dog so she came along to relax in the trailer with us and actually managed to park her bum on the bed whilst her owners had a leisurely look around.

On the **18th April** Frank Jackman organised a golf day with all profit donated to the Sittingbourne RGT and by all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves and a cheque for £587.02 was present on the Charity night by Frank, thank you very much to Frank and everyone who attended.

On the **28th & 29th of April** we attended the Leeds Castle Country Fair and Horse Show it was a lovely setting for an event, the weather was superb (if a bit windy at times) and the view of the Castle in the background was the icing on the cake for us.

We used both the RGT trailer and pop up tent for maximum impact the pictures can be found on the website, it was very impressive.

Homer the Greyhound made his first appearance at our events and helped show off what great pets greyhounds make.

The two day event was very busy with a lot of interest and hopefully some greyhounds homed, we gave out a lot of information and everyone was very friendly.

We took Libby, Missy and Frankie along and they behaved like true ambassadors lapping up all the attention.

A big thank you to everyone for their support and generosity especially the Leeds Castle staff for their hospitality and donation for our raffle.

### 1st Anniversary Charity Night

Our 1st Anniversary charity night on **4th May** was a great success with Frank Jackman presenting a cheque to Homer and Mark for £587.02 raised on his golf day, thanks very much Frank.

This brought the total amount raised to **£3119.67** thanks go to everyone involved in making it a success especially those behind the scenes.

The South East Afghan Racing Club once again came along to show their support and put on a very entertaining race which had to be rerun because traps two and six decided to go the wrong way and the race had to be stopped for the safety of the dogs.

The rerun featured a four dog race with reserve 'Morse' taking the honours by a short head in a cracking finale.

Six of the trainers kennel hands took part in a reversal race dressed up as dogs with their legs tied together so they could only run with half a stride and chased Rob dressed as a 'bunny'. Steve Mavrias from Mick Mavrias's kennels eventually took the honours after Jeff Lash from Roy Griffin's kennels was disqualified for undoing his shackles.

The owners of some of our homed greyhounds came along to show their support and raise awareness of what fantastic pets the dogs make.

They paraded before races two and four and were applauded by the crowd which I'm sure made them all feel very special, people interested in homing our greyhounds went along and talked to them throughout the night and some of the trainers also paid them a visit and all the dogs recognised them and were pleased to see them again.

Many thanks to all the volunteers on the night especially Linsey, Andy, Abbey and Ashley Harland and Lesley Evans.

**A special thanks to everyone who sponsored the races and the dogs.**

Thanks also to all those that donated raffle prizes - P & O Ferries, The Hop Farm, Leeds Castle, M & Co Sittingbourne, John & Kay and Dennis & Betty.

We even got a mention on Sky Sports before the event courtesy of Darrell Williams, thanks Darrell.

**It is only with the support of these business's and individuals as well as everyone who attended that we can continue to make sure that even more of these lovable and rewarding dogs get the future they deserve.**

We were made to feel very welcome when we attended the Tonbridge Garden and Home Show with a few retired greyhounds on the **5th, 6th and 7th of May** and although the weather was not too kind the people still came along and we gave out a lot of information, volunteers Anthea and Alfie Moon came along with Robbie to help us and were very good at talking to the public and giving out information and we thank them for all their help at very short notice.

## **DOG AND BITCH OF THE MONTH**

The dog and bitch of the month continues to be very popular and has had some close run contests with February even having an inseparable four way tie for the bitch of the month trophy!  
The Sittingbourne RGT will continue to support this for as long as it can.

## **MEET AND GREETINGS**

Lorna is doing a wonderful job arranging and attending all the meet and greets and we would be lost without her.  
The Meet and Greets are very important and we will continue to do as many as we can but help with them is urgently needed.  
The aim is to raise the awareness of the RGT's existence and to give information on the benefits of sharing your home with a retired greyhound so please help us help the greyhounds.

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

## **THE WEB SITE**

The web site is still going strong and has a great deal of information on it and has now had over 11000 visitors!  
There are some novelty things on there to get peoples attention such as talking greyhounds for the children who hopefully will be the owners of the future.  
You can send electronic postcards to your friends and family free of charge with pictures of some of the greyhounds that are or have been in the kennels.

## **RGT FUNDRAISING**

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

**Don't be shy, give us a call!**

## **PLEASE NOTE**

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

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

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

**Many thanks to everyone for their continued support.**

## **INFORMATION**

**If you have any questions or require further information please contact BILL BUCKLEY on 07802 762115 or email [info@rgtsittingbourne.co.uk](mailto:info@rgtsittingbourne.co.uk)**