

## BULLETIN 83 – April 2015

Dear Members and Friends,

I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of the Trustees' **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS** for the year ended 31 December 2014. The Trust remains very sound financially although it has been necessary to dip into reserves as outgoings exceeded income during 2014. Please let me know if you have any questions about this document or any aspect of the Trust's work.

**MEMBERSHIPS** became due on 1<sup>st</sup> January and a great many of you have already renewed and we are extremely grateful for the large number of donations that accompany the membership fees. For those of you who have perhaps forgotten to renew this year so far, a pink reminder slip is enclosed. If you have recently paid, or if we have put in a reminder slip in error, please accept my apologies! For Therapet Volunteers it is vital that memberships are up to date, not least from the insurance angle.

In the last Bulletin I made mention of the review being carried out by the Trustees on how the Trust is structured, managed and financed.

- One of the first results of the review is that the Trustees decided to increase the maximum number of Trustees from seven to nine in order to spread the load between more people. I am delighted to advise you that **SIMON YOUNG**, Area Representative for East Lothian, and **LYNSEY THOMSON**, Area Representative for Stirlingshire, have accepted invitations to become Trustees. They bring with them their own particular skills from their own very different professional lives, considerable hands on experience of the workings of the Trust and the Therapet Service, and, yes, youth!
- The Trustees have also decided to create a small number of sub-committees which will become responsible for differing aspects of the Trust's operation. As a consequence it was decided to disband the Committee of Management which, in its later years, had confined itself to organising the now discontinued annual companion dog show in Glasgow. In the Annual Report the Trustees have recorded their thanks to those who have served on the Committee.
- For the first time since the Trust was established in 1988 the Trustees decided to increase Membership and Therapet registration fees.
- The Trustees have decided that it is necessary to take a more pro-active approach to fund raising to help meet the increasing costs in promoting and administering the work of the Trust. An appeal for donations is to be launched in May. Alongside this we are opening a **JustGiving** account which will enable donations to be made online via a link from our website and by **Text**. For members participating in sponsored events this account should prove invaluable in obtaining sponsorship from family and friends.
- We now have a Twitter account so please follow us @**CanineConcern** or if you have a Twitter account request to "follow@CanineConcern".

The Trust's office in Edinburgh is functioning well and Lesley and Norma are kept very busy. The best time to contact them is from 10.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday. If there is an urgent matter to discuss outside these hours please contact me on 0131 312 8998.

This year our **AWARDS LUNCH** will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November in the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate. Please put the date in your diaries, and more information about it and the nomination procedure for **Therapet of the Year** will be included in the August Bulletin.

Again this year we will be organising a **PRIZE DRAW** which will be drawn at the Awards Lunch and tickets will be sent out with the August Bulletin. Please support this fund-raising effort. Donations of prizes will be much appreciated. If you are associated with a commercial organisation that may be willing to sponsor a prize please let me know.

The August Bulletin will include news and stories about the **THERAPET SERVICE** and the **THERAPETS** themselves. Please send me reports of your Therapet visiting and the exploits of your Therapets in good time.

Since the January Bulletin we have been informed that the following Therapets have died:-

**“Ella” – Hilda Stephenson’s Red Setter**  
**“Jim” – Lisa Venables’ Border collie**  
**“Lucy” – Val Burns’ English Setter**  
**“Ra” – Pam Courcha’s Bedlington Terrier**  
**“Sam” – Yukiko Akazawa’s Labrador Cross**  
**“Vincent” – Kirsten Macleod’s Bullmastiff**

Our sympathies go out to all of you who have lost never to be forgotten pets. I hope that I have not missed any Therapets but if I have please let me know.

As you are all aware we have a wonderful team of Area Representatives, they do so much and I do not know what we would do without them! Inevitably we have changes from time to time and on this occasion I have two to tell you about.

In Ayrshire **SHONA MORRIS** has taken over from Linda Whitby who has done great work in organising and publicising the Therapet Service in her area for a number of years. Linda will continue to assist Shona which is good news. Shona’s contact details are: Tel: 01475 530825 Email: [shona.morris@btopenworld.com](mailto:shona.morris@btopenworld.com)

- In Fife **CHRISTINE GRIST** has taken on the post vacated by Claire Grubb who we thank for her work and we are glad that she is continuing with her Therapet visiting which she loves so much. Christine’s contact details are Tel: 01333 352767 Email: [christine.grist@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.grist@btinternet.com)

All new Therapet volunteers since 28 February 2011 have been enrolled on the **Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme** (the “**PVG SCHEME**”). We are continuing with the process of asking all active Therapet Volunteers, who started before the PVG Scheme was introduced, to complete PVG application forms.

Finally if you are attending **SCOTTISH KENNEL CLUB’s** Championship Shows in May and August at Ingliston please call into the CCST Tent where Trustees **JAMES MACDONALD** and **DOUGLAS RUTHVEN** and their helpers will be pleased to see you. Please see the website, or our new Facebook page, for more details along with information about other events which the Trust will be attending during the year.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

**Nick Henley Price**