



Scottish Charity
No. SC014924

Incorporating **THERAPET**®

81-85 Portland Street
Edinburgh
EH6 4AY

Tel: 0131 553 0034

Email: info@canineconcernscotland.org.uk

www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk

BULLETIN 88 – January 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2017 are now due and I attach a renewal form. We do hope that you will continue your membership, and of course it is very important, from the insurance point of view, that Therapet Volunteers keep their membership up to date. The form contains a **Gift Aid Declaration**. If you are a tax payer and are willing to make use of the Gift Aid system, in respect of your membership and/or donation, please read the declaration carefully. If you are certain that you qualify please do sign the declaration as the Trust can then recover valuable tax from HM Revenue & Customs. You will also see from the form that it is possible to make payment directly to the Trust's bank account. If you decide to use this method please ensure that you instruct your bank to give your **surname and initial** as a reference. Additionally, if you make direct payment please remember to send us the completed renewal form if you want Gift Aid to apply.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

This annual event took place at the Kaim Park Hotel, Bathgate on Sunday 20th November and to make the presentations of the awards we were delighted to have with us Patron **Rosemary Long**.

As usual there were two awards made to recognise fund-raising efforts in connection with sponsored events. **The Ki-Chu-Asha Stars of Hope Memorial Trophy**, which is for the organiser whose walk raised the most money, was again won by **Vivien Moen**, our representative of Badenoch & Strathspey. **The Miss Matty Award** which is awarded to the top individual fund-raiser at the sponsored walks was won by **Scott Cairns** of Glasgow who raised £715 by walking the West Highland Way.

The **Dr Morris Andrew and Daniel the Spaniel Trophy** is awarded to the Therapet Organiser of the Year. Dr Andrew was a Trustee and also the Area Representative for Edinburgh and the Lothians for a number of years. The trophy was donated by members of Dr Andrew's family. This year the award was made to long serving Area Representative for Moray, **Maureen Thomson** who is pictured with **Patron Rosemary Long** and **Mark Oszczypala** of **Burns Pet Nutrition Ltd**.



Trustees:

George Leslie BVMS MRCVS, James Macdonald, Dr Valerie J Marrian MBChB FRCP FRCPE DCH,

Norma Murray, A Douglas Ruthven CChem FRSC, I Allan Sim BSc CA, John A Stead BSc.

Lynsey G Thomson BSc(Hons) OT, Simon W Young BA(Hons) MBA

CEO/Secretary/Treasurer: Nicholas P Henley Price

Maureen joined as a Therapet volunteer in 1997 with her beloved **Irish Setter/Labrador Cross Holly** and was invited to become the Area Representative in March 2002 since when she has nurtured a long line of volunteers and their Therapets. She organises her volunteers brilliantly and gives them all the support they need and has the knack of persuading them to become involved in events. She keeps the office well informed about everything that goes on in her area. Whilst there are no universities in her area PAWS Against Stress events have been held with great success in Elgin High School, and Reading with Dogs has commenced in Aberlour High School. Maureen and some of her team recently did a bag packing session at their local ASDA and received £230 in donations from the shoppers they assisted. Maureen is always willing to lend a helping hand. For instance, she always supports neighbouring Area Rep Vivien Moen with her PR work at the Figgat Fair each year.

A few years ago the Trustees introduced **20 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS** for members who had given 20 or more years of active participation in the Trust's work. This year we had two members who qualified:

Anne Macdonald of Barrhead, Glasgow, who commenced Therapet visiting in 1996 with Springer Spaniel "Eilidh" and another Springer Spaniel, Poppy, took over in 2005. "Eilidh" was Therapet of the Year in 2001 and the Trust awarded Anne with the Iain Whyte award in 2012 in recognition of her Therapet work within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Irene Taylor, of Lunan Bay, Angus also commenced Therapet visiting in Maureen joined as a Therapet volunteer in 1997 with her beloved Irish 1996 with Golden Retriever Sam. "Sam" died in 2006 but new Golden Retriever "China" was registered as a Therapet in 2007 and has been visiting regularly ever since.



The **IAIN WHYTE MEMORIAL AWARD** was donated by Betty Lawson-Whyte in memory of her first husband who was a great admirer of the work carried out by Canine Concern Scotland Trust. The award is made to a person or organisation whose work has been of special benefit to the Trust over the past year or over a period of years. Over the years the award has been made to some very special people and organisations.

The winner this year was Douglas Ruthven in recognition of his work as Area Representative for Edinburgh & the Lothians from 2000 to 2016. Douglas had previously received this award in 2009 in recognition of his overall work for the Trust but it felt that to award it to him again this year on his retirement from his Area Representative role would be the most fitting "Thank You".

Douglas first became a member of Canine Concern Scotland Trust in 1998 and became a volunteer under the Trust's Therapet Service. Since then Douglas and his beloved Border Collies (initially Cassie, then Holly and now Keira) have been regular visitors to long-stay patients and residents in a number of hospitals and care and nursing homes in Edinburgh.

In 2000 Douglas willingly took on the voluntary role of Area Representative for Edinburgh and the Lothians. This involved him carrying out assessments of potential Therapets and the placement of them and their volunteer owners in hospitals, care and nursing homes. These tasks in themselves take up a considerable amount of time but in addition Douglas carried out promotional work for the Trust and regularly gave talks to groups interested in learning about the Therapet Service. Douglas was responsible for successful negotiations with NHS Lothian which led to a formal agreement for the supply of Therapet Volunteers to all relevant hospitals and care homes within NHS Lothian. This agreement proved to be the blueprint for agreements with other NHS Trusts in Scotland.



In 2008 Douglas accepted an invitation to join the Trust's Board of Trustees and he brought to it wealth of experience from his professional life as well as firsthand knowledge of the Therapet Service. He has been at the forefront of the Trust's work assisting psychologists with patients, mainly children, who have phobias about dogs.

In 2012, in conjunction with the Student Counselling Service at the University of Edinburgh, Douglas developed the "Paws Against Stress" service whereby teams of Therapet Volunteers take their Therapets to sessions with students, particularly during examination periods to provide relaxation. The service has proved to be so successful that the Trust now provides it in other universities in Edinburgh and in universities and colleges throughout Scotland. In 2016 about 10,000 students benefitted from the service.

During his 16 years as Area Representative Douglas made significant, and positive, differences to the lives of so many people ranging from children in hospitals and schools, students, people in care and nursing homes and indeed to the team of Therapet Volunteers that he managed so successfully and sensitively.

His dedication to his role was considerable and his success was demonstrated by the ever-increasing workload and earlier this year he decided, quite understandably, that the time had come for him to pass the reins to others and to start enjoying his retirement. We now have a great team in Edinburgh and the Lothians which is doing what Douglas had been doing single handedly for many years.

The Trust is delighted that Douglas is remaining a Trustee and an active Therapet volunteer.

The **SPENCER AWARD for THERAPET OF THE YEAR** was donated by **Tom and Dorothy Wilkins**, whose Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, **SPENCER**, was the very first dog to be registered in the Therapet service, way back in 1988.

This year we received 14 nominations in respect of Therapets all of whom do magnificent work and of whom their owners can be justifiably proud. Deciding on a winner is one of the hardest tasks the Trustees have to undertake each year!

The winner of **THERAPET OF THE YEAR FOR 2016** was Greyhound **“MEGAN”** very proudly owned by **Linda Whitby** of Irvine, Ayrshire. Megan was registered as a Therapet in 2010

Megan was nominated by Therapet Volunteer Christine Scott of Irvine and by Area Representative for Ayrshire Shona Morris.

In her nomination Christine Scott said: “Along with Linda & Megan my Golden Retriever, Storm, and I have visited Ayrshire Central Hospital. Moorpark House in Kilbirnie which is for adults with various forms of autism, also accompanied them to many talks by Linda to groups such as Age Concern, Alzheimers and various women’s group.

“Through listening to Linda’s talk I have learned that she and Megan also visit some care homes in Irvine, a school on Cumbrae to help children with reading difficulties in the Reading with Dogs programme and also they help people who are scared of dogs.



“Megan is a 10 year old rescue Greyhound and I was always under the impression that retired Greyhounds lazed about on a sofa all day – well Megan seems to be the exception to the rule as she seems to be on the go all the time with her Therapet activities. Whenever I have been at a Therapet visit or talk, Megan has always been so laid back and relaxed and this has made many, many people happy and brightened up their day.

“Linda seems to have boundless energy when it comes to volunteering her service for Therapet and as a Therapet volunteer myself I think that she and Megan are very deserving of this prestigious award.”

In her nomination Shona Morris wrote: “I have had the pleasure of meeting Megan when visiting my own place of work, Cumbrae Primary School. I teach there and Linda and Megan have begun a Reading with Dogs project with us. Megan has a very calm disposition but is also friendly with adults and children. They have visited a wide range of establishment – care homes, schools, hospitals, sheltered housing, private homes and colleges. They have done work with phobic patients, participated in Paws Against Stress sessions and with people with mental health issues and other disabilities. I have no hesitation in recommending Megan as Therapet of the Year.”

Yvonne Gribbon, Head Teacher at Haysholm School, Irvine supported Megan’s nomination: “Linda and Megan are regular visitors to Haysholm School which caters for 25 children and young people, 5 – 18, who have severe and complex Additional Support Needs. A large number of our pupils are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum disorder. When Linda visits with Megan they visit all classes where Megan will stand very quietly to be looked at and/or petted and stroked. Megan is very good at her “job”, she is calm and gentle with the children. This is very important for the children and young people who are in Autism Spectrum. Many are frightened from dogs and other pets because they seem unpredictable to them. However, Megan, because of her calm and gentle nature, helps to desensitise some of those children. Our children also have a range of sensory needs and find stroking soft furry material pleasurable and calming. Both Linda and Megan are very responsive to the children that they visit in classes. The level of input is tailored to the needs of each individual and children are neither rushed nor made to pat Megan. We feel that the input of Therapet is highly beneficial and we are grateful to receive the service.”

Further support came from the patients and Staff at the Day Hospital, Ayrshire Central Hospital: “Megan our gorgeous greyhound is the golden girl of the Pet Therapy Service. She has been a loyal visitor to the Day Hospital over the past few years with both staff and patients looking forward to her weekly visit. Megan has a gentle manner, calming personality and the silkiest of coats it’s no wonder our patients love when she visits. Her guilty pleasure is the odd doggy biscuit or two and who could say no to those big brown eyes. Her picture hangs pride of place on our notice board for everyone to see. Our gorgeous girl is now getting on in years and deserves the recognition for all her hard work.”

Linda Young, Activities Co-Ordinator at South Beach House Older Persons Residential Unit which has 34 residents 80% of whom have Dementia wrote: “Megan our Therapet Dog along with Linda Whitby visit the residents every four weeks on a Friday afternoon. When Megan arrives and enters the main lounge there is an audible excitable chatter and buzz. Lots of residents wanting Megan to start with them first! But Linda takes time to show Megan round the room individually going to all residents. Megan is patient and gentle as residents stroke and talk to her. The smiles of delight show on all residents’ faces. It completely lifts their spirits. Residents who don’t move very much will make an amazing effort to stretch out and stroke Megan. Residents who normally find talking difficult due to advance dementia will make happy noises of approval to Megan.

“Megan also visits residents who are bedridden due to illness. This is really uplifting to them in many ways – it is very therapeutic for them, there is opportunity for conversation with Linda who always finds a subject to talk about and it aids their spirits if they suffer from depression that can set in if residents are in their rooms for long periods.”

The very close **RUNNERS-UP** for **Therapet of the Year**, were the very special team of **“DYLAN”**, a Cocker Spaniel owned by **Anne-Marie Campbell**, and **“SCRUFFY”**, a Crossbreed owned by Elspeth Jenkins both of Stirlingshire. They were nominated by Sacha Oats of Bannockburn Primary School and by Trustee and Area Representative Lynsey Thomson. In her nomination Sacha wrote:

“The role that Dylan and Scruffy have played in our school’s recent ‘Reading for Enjoyment’ attainment project cannot be underestimated. At Bannockburn Primary school we are continually striving to find creative and innovative ways to raise attainment and improve the well-being of our learners and this project has captured the minds and hearts of many within our school community and beyond.



“Dylan and Scruffy have been the perfect candidates for the first ever ‘Reading with Dogs’ project that has been rolled out within a Scottish School. Their calm, friendly and affectionate natures have fostered the development of extremely close bonds between learner and dog, and their patience and excellent listening skills have allowed children to successfully develop their reading confidence within a relaxing environment, free of judgement and correction. Over the past 9 months, both dogs have become an important part of our school community and are well known and loved by many of our staff and learners.”

The SECOND RUNNER-UP was **“BREAGH”** a Golden Retriever owned by **Diane Wood** of Oldmeldrum in Aberdeenshire. Breagh was registered in 2011. She does wonderful work at an adult learning centre and she is actively involved in the Reading with Dogs programme at Kennay Academy with remarkable results. She regularly works with Clinical Child Psychologists in Aberdeen with severely dog phobic children, again with dramatically good outcomes and she accompanies Diane when she gives talks to various Rotary Clubs, WRI, Woman’s Guilds, and Brownie Groups. Breagh is also taking part in Paws Against Stress sessions at Scotland Rural College Aberdeen Campus as well as going with Diane to nursing homes prior to Therapets being placed in them.

The nominated Therapets who did not quite make it into the top three were:-

- **“Bob”** Dawn Clough’s Labrador from the Borders
- **“Coire”** Tom Lawson’s Border Terrier from the Borders
- **“Harvey”** Derek Muir’s Boxer from Edinburgh
- **“Kyla”** Hilda Stephenson’s Irish Setter from Fife
- **“Lucy & Cree”** Kay Matthew’s American Cocker Spaniels from Tayside
- **“Noodle”** Amy McKenzie’s Beagle from Aberdeen
- **“Sandy”** Jane Jones’s Greyhound from Edinburgh
- **“Scooby”** Barbara MacLure’s Jack Russell/Patterdale Terrier from Glasgow
- **“Shadow”** Bryan Robertson’s Saluki/Lurcher from Stirlingshire
- **“Thai”** David Neill’s Tibetan Terrier from Aberdeen
- **“Wilson”** Laura Budge’s Australian Labradoodle from Edinburgh

IN MEMORIAM

Since the August Bulletin we have learned of the deaths of number of much loved Therapets. Very sadly this time I have to include Lesley Bird's Greyhound/Saluki "**Jess**". When Lesley joined us as Administrator in August 2013 Jess came with her and became an integral part of the office and also became a Registered Therapet. Jess was probably the most laid-back dog I have ever come across and her behaviour in the office was impeccable and she always gave visiting Therapets a warm and respectful welcome. To Lesley and all of you who have recently lost your Therapets we send sincere condolences. I do hope than I have not missed any from the list below but if I have please let the office know.

"**ARCHIE**" - Jane Anderson's German Short Haired Pointer

"**DOOGIE**" - Joyce Henderson's Golden Labrador

"**LUATH**" - Jane Paterson's Labrador

"**MARA**" - Alan McNeish's Golden Retriever

"**MOWGLI**" - Katrina Trainor's Golden Retriever

"**SAM**" - Martha Brindley's Whippet

"**SPARKY**" - Calum Scott's Cocker Spaniel

THERAPET NEWS

The success of the Therapet service continues and the end of the year just over 200 new Therapets will have been registered in 2016. This year we have received well nearly 1,000 enquiries from people wishing to consider volunteering with us. As you can imagine the associated work has been keeping Lesley and Norma in the office very busy. We are very lucky to have two such dedicated Administrators.

Paws Against Stress events have been taking place at universities and colleges throughout Scotland and **Reading with Dogs** which we launched earlier in the year is become widely known and appreciated.

Richard Lamb from Cults in Aberdeen has written to say that "John Bibby has immortalised his Therapet visitor **Bertie**, a 5 year old Eurasier, with an acrylic painting. Bertie loves to visit John, who is no longer mobile, at his home. It may be something to do with the biscuits that John always has waiting for him! Accompanied by his own dog, whom he misses very much, John used to walk the hills and mountains as part of his work with Soil Survey Scotland. Therapet Bertie has now come to help."



Margaret Addie from Kelso and owner of Therapet Tweed, a Border Collie, wrote in “Sadly one of the residents of Grove House died on Aug 15th and to my utter astonishment the relatives asked me to conduct his funeral service. I am not a Minister but I do take services in Care Homes but never a funeral at the Crematorium. Anyway I did it and they especially wanted Tweed there too and it all went well, they were most appreciative and Tweed helped enormously in providing a focus away from the coffin and reducing the stress.”

Christine Waugh who visits the Royal Edinburgh Hospital with Lurcher Therapet **Hoby** was delighted to receive the following from May and Sonia on the Eden Ward:

Poem for Hobo

There once was a dog called Hobo
Who holidayed out in Nairobi
He filled up his tum on Pedigree Chum
Then sent for his canine friend Toby

Hobo enjoyed running around
And chasing his doggy pal Toby
They travelled the Land
And thought it was grand
But found it too hot in Nairobi

Now all good things must come to an end
But that’s not the end of this story
The wandering pair sat down and agreed
Next year it will be Tobermory!!!!



John McFarlane from Elderslie in Renfrewshire and owner of Therapet “**Nairn**” has written:-

“I am writing in response to John Bowman's article in the August Newsletter which I found so true but I have added our own experience with Nairn and his visits to a couple local homes. It is also in praise of the service Canine Concern gives and allows both of us enjoy. Thank you for the joy you have given us both and the many people we visit.”

“Nairn is a six year old yellow/golden Labrador, who has been my shadow for some five years having been a rescue from Glasgow Cat & Dog Home. He has been visiting a couple of homes in Elderslie in Renfrewshire since December 2014. As has been said I am ‘just his minder’ he being the principle party in the partnership, I was greatly taken by an item in the last newsletter.

“I showed John Bowman’s article about Max and his study on the effect on Alzheimer and Dementia residents to the manager of Adam’s House in Elderslie he whole heartedly agreed with his findings. During Nairn’s weekly visit, I as his minder, have seen the change he has had on a number of the residents. On arriving at Adam’s House and being told one of the residents is ‘a bit upset this morning’ then seeing the total change from tears to smiles when they see Nairn and he greets them in his usual enthusiastic manner. ‘Have you come to see me’ is a common greeting he gets and the tears are gone and the smiles appear, I think this is a tale many Therapet owners / minders will have heard.

“Nairn has also been visiting Wallace Court a Capability Scotland home in Elderslie for the last fifteen months and again he receives a great welcome from the staff and residents and yes I have seen the change in moods he can have with the residents who are all in wheelchairs.



The incident I am about to describe happened in February this year. One resident who was not very communicative either with Nairn, me or the staff and Nairn did not pay the same attention to her as he did with other residents. On this particular morning this lady took a fit or episode Nairn was right in there pushing his nose under her hand. until a couple of the care assistants came to takeover and we both withdrew.

“Nairn nor I saw the lady the next week as she was in hospital but the following week when she was wheeled through in her chair as soon as she saw Nairn a smile came to her face, the first she had given to either of us – what a tonic that smile was, it made every visit so worthwhile and yes she still smiles at Nairn and his minder. Nairn had never seen anyone fitting or having an episode but instinct seemed to takeover he definitely had no training and it had been over forty years since I had seen anyone in such a condition.

“Yes! Therapet works it does change moods as many readers will testify but it can also help someone who may not communicate too well and give Nairn and his minder a smile that is worth millions. So thank you Therapets, the Dogs are the real STARS we are just the minders and you helped me bring a smile to at least one lady.”

THERAPET GOODS

Please remember that we have the following goods available for purchase from the office:-

Therapet Coats

Replacement Lead Flashes

Therapet Bandanas

Sweat Shirts

Polo Shirts

T-Shirts

FUND RAISING

Area Representative Fiona Watts writes:-

“On Tuesday 22nd November 2016, a team of girls from **Mackie Academy, Stonehaven** won the final of the YPI competition in their school for Therapets! The girls were Molly Lees, Lucy Guest, Sherie Thomson, Rose Martin, Kirstie Lawson, Alex Hartley and Katlin Innes.



“The Youth & Philanthropy Initiative, connects schools and charities across Scotland and is managed by The Wood Foundation. The winning team from each participating school earns £3,000 for their selected charity

“There were 6 teams in the Mackie Academy final, all of whom had worked hard for their chosen charities and spent a lot of time and effort on their Presentation on the night. The girls in the ‘Therapet’ team spoke well, with humour, and enthusiasm, whilst giving the large audience a lot of information about Therapets and CCST. They thoroughly deserved the win! Their slide presentation showed Therapets in action in Care homes and at University and their fundraising busking session which they had organised, with the permission of the Aberdeen Council, outside the Winter Gardens in the Duthie Park in Aberdeen on 1st October. They set up the CCST banner and their instruments and were allowed to play for an hour. We were able to speak to a number of people during that time who were interested, and the girls played very well. Towards the end, a large group of students approached and after a few minutes listening, joined in. It became a very friendly singsong. These were a student choir from Beijing who were singing at the University in Aberdeen. They helped the girls raise £130, which was greatly appreciated.”

And there is further good news just in from **Harry Greig** that a team of pupils at **Breadalbane Academy Aberfeldy** have also won £3,000 for CCST by coming out top in their school’s competition. The team comprised Bethan Macdonald, Georgina Holmes, Alice Nicoll and Joanna Surzyn. It is hoped that we will have a picture to include in the August 2017 edition of the Bulletin.

We send our sincere thanks to all the pupils who have worked so hard on their presentations and for achieving such meaningful financial support for our charity.

READING WITH DOGS

Reading with Dogs is now well under way in Scotland. As most of you know the aim of this project is to encourage young readers who lack confidence with reading to come along to a library/school and, instead of reading to a person, read to a dog. The idea being that the dog will listen to them and not judge, allowing them to relax and gain confidence in reading out loud. We have an excellent leaflet which sets out the aims of the initiative and how to go about organising sessions. If you would like copies please let the office know.

The following excerpts from reports that we have received demonstrate that the project is more than fulfilling our expectations.

From John Kerr our Area Representative for East Kilbride:

JJ and I have been attending Hareleeshill Primary School, Larkhall regularly. I asked acting principal teacher, Chiara Moscardini McKenna to give her thoughts :-
 “Up until now eight children have visited JJ regularly, 4 children previously and 4 currently. The main focus has been for children with behavioural, social or emotional issues and visiting JJ for them has been an opportunity to engage with a school-based activity (reading) without the anxiety they usually feel which often results to outbursts or difficulty in the classroom. The children all say that when they are with JJ it makes them feel happy and calm which is a very powerful and important thing for these children and not something they feel regularly in school. Now when these issues arise we refer back to this, how they feel with JJ and it can often help them to calm down and regulate their emotions.”

From Maureen Thomson our Area Representative for Moray:

We visit New Elgin Primary School with one Volunteer and one Therapet on a weekly basis with 7 pupils over morning and afternoon sessions. The comment from the teacher on two special needs pupils was that communication had improved way beyond what they expected. The others pupils had made steady progress and overall the school is very happy.

From Pam Courcha our Area representative for Inverness:

We have a scheme at Culloden library which is organised by the library and recruits children from the school. Rebecca, who takes her Therapet Poppy, commented;
 “We’ve seen 9 children this calendar year, most of them have had 2 blocks of reading (6 sessions per block). It is a commitment from parents to attend as they do have to bring their children and stay in the library for the session. I think this initially is a hassle and could put families off but once they get through the door they are keen as a bean. We have a 100% success rate of getting the children signed up to the library and they tend to take the books home with them for the week. All parents have commented on the change in children regarding confidence, enjoyment for reading and the like.”

Jenny Reaves our Reading with Dogs Co-ordinator in Edinburgh & the Lothians has sent in detailed reports on the work being carried out in Edinburgh and the Lothians. In particular she cites projects in Gylemuir Primary School, Edinburgh and in Harmeny School, Balerno.

Initially at Gylemuir Primary there was a six week course with volunteers and Therapets attending on Monday each week. Each Therapet heard around 5/6 children in 15 minute sessions during the mornings. After 6 weeks the school wanted us to continue! The Deputy Head, Sheena MacArthur, said that “everyone loves the dogs coming in and looks forward to Monday mornings. The children chosen for the project are those needing the most support to develop their reading skills and we notice that over the time the children have become more relaxed and appear to enjoy their reading and the time they spend with the dogs. They now want to bring in their favourite books to share with us. One or two children who initially were a bit nervous around the dogs have become much more confident and enjoy meeting them.”

Trustee and Area Representative for Stirlingshire Lynsey Thomson pioneered the Reading with Dogs project at Bannockburn Primary School.

Sacha Oates, Bannockburn’s Support for Learning Teacher, said: “This project is the first of its kind in Scotland and observations made by class teachers once these learners have returned to the classroom have highlighted significant improvements in attitude and willingness to engage. This project is still in the early stages of development, but our hope is that, with improved reader engagement and enjoyment, there will inevitably be an improvement in reading attainment.”

Head Teacher Audrey Ross said: “We have seen improved motivation for reading amongst our trial group but this is only the first step for us at Bannockburn. We are already thinking about how this project can be enhanced and extended to impact positively on more children in our school.”

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

I am delighted to report that Fiona Watts has joined Linda Macdonald and Diane Wood as an Area Representative in the Aberdeen Area. Fiona is a great addition to the team. On the sad side Pam Courcha, our Area Representative for the Inverness area, has reluctantly decided to stand down because of a number of other pressing commitments. We thank Pam for the work she has done on behalf of the Therapet Service and we hope to find a replacement for her before too long.

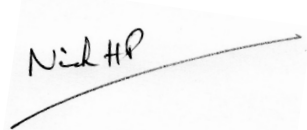
An up-to-date list of our Area Representatives and their contact details is provided on our website.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

The website is regularly updated, for which many thanks go to Trustee James Macdonald, our incredibly hard working Area Representative for Glasgow and Strathclyde. Many news stories are included and you can access this copy, and past copies, of the Bulletin along with the most recent Annual Report and Accounts. We also have a **FACEBOOK** page and a **TWITTER** account that give information about the Trust, and future events, and direct the readers to our website for further information about the work that the Trust undertakes.

With best wishes to you and your Therapets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick HP". A long, thin horizontal line is drawn below the signature, extending across the width of the signature area.

Nick Henley Price

PS Please renew your membership and please keep sending us reports and stories about your Therapet Visiting.