



Hello everyone,

Once again we are rapidly approaching the end of another very busy year, there really has been no let up at all this year.

We have been over capacity with our kennel dwellers for many months now and it hasn't helped that the festive season 'dump the dog' started in earnest and much earlier than usual. It really does beggar belief the pathetic excuses that we get from people wanting to rehome their dogs urgently just before Christmas. Here's an example - 'we both have bad backs so the dog needs to be gone before Christmas!' We really should write a book, I'm sure it would be a best seller.

The festive season kennel bills will put us under enormous strain so we have put up a fundraiser and hope that people will donate to help us cover those costs and enable us to take in any emergencies that crop up over the next few weeks.

I would like to thank all volunteers for their hard work and support throughout 2015, particularly those on the frontline who have to deal directly with the public, some of whom are not very thankful for the help we give. We are all volunteers and don't have to do this but we do, simply because of our love for the breed.

I would also like to thank my wonderful partner John and my daughter Alice without whose help and support, I could not continue.

My wishes for 2016 are that the rescue continues to be as successful as it is and that the world becomes a better place for not just our four legged friends, but for all species. All species have a right - a right to a life free from pain and suffering. Humans do not have a right to exploit any living species nor indeed any of the earths' natural resources. Remember that there is no planet B.

John, Alice and myself wish you all seasons greetings and hope you have a lovely holiday with your family, friends and of course your pooches.

Jayne

"As long as Man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower living beings, he will never know health or peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seed of murder and pain cannot reap joy and love."

— Pythagoras

Best Wishes,

Jayne



Pictured here is Margaret & Sarah on their stall at the Buxton Dickensian Market held on the 7th November.

The ladies raised a wonderful £105.75.

Special thanks to Janine for getting the 2016 calendar printed early for the ladies to offer for sale on their stall.



Here we have the very handsome Harvey, who's feeling pretty proud of himself. His mum Laura Taylor raffled off this fabulous hamper which she made up, raising a tail wagging £175!



And not wanting to be outdone by their friend Harvey, Miko and Lucas put their mum Emily Waggot to work!

Emily, who works in Pets Corner, Gosforth, held a raffle and tombola for a whole weekend raising an amazing £225.18.

Thanks go to everyone who donated items, Eileen Welsh for the tombola and the Mutz Hut even donated agility vouchers.

Emily displayed posters of the NE's urgent dogs, raising awareness of their plight and our rescue.

Well done Harvey, Miko and Lucas for being the inspiration for these brilliant fundraisers.





Here we have Anne Wood, who has raised around £1000 through her crafting. Not only is she incredibly creative making all the goodies for her stalls but she also runs crafting workshops in Dewsbury, nr Leeds. So if you fancy learning about felting, card making and yummy truffle making to name but a few then get in touch, Anne will be holding further workshops in 2016 anne.d.wood@talk21.com for more info.

Pictured here looking beautiful in their Xmas bandanas made by Anne is Taboo & Ami.



One of Anne's bandanas made it's way down to Norfolk for Georgie to wear to meet Santa at the Animal Magic Dog Club Xmas party.

Georgie's a regular shop lifter (he sticks his head in the biscuit boxes and helps himself) at Sam's Pets in North Walsham where Santa works when he's not delivering presents. Santa said he'll be returning all the current charity collection pots they have by the till to replace them with one of ours in January. Thank you Santa!

And huge thanks go to Georgie's Auntie Bronwen from Animal Magic who donated £100 to GSDR.



My lovely colleagues at BT Openreach supported my own fundraising by buying the walnuts from our tree, all 8.8 kilos of them, and even people without dogs bought a raffle ticket raffle ticket helping me raise £133.85.

2016 GSDR CALENDAR



Enjoy the whole year with pictures and stories of our stunning rescue dogs.

These top quality calendars are just £10 each,
with an additional £2.80 for p&p

As with previous years multiple orders of up to 3 calendars can be sent for the same
£2.80 postage charge

A great Christmas Stocking filler

To order please visit Janine's fundraising page at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/
JanineKerr](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/JanineKerr) and make your payment
(Please DO NOT tick for "Gift Aid". Gift Aid cannot be accepted for purchases)

Then email janinekerr@sky.com with the subject heading "GSDR Calendar"

News from the Central & North West Regions

SEASON'S GREETINGS WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS ... from Irene, Mel, Bill & Mary.



THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers in Central and North West regions for giving up their time to help the dogs in need and helping out wherever you can. It has been a good year for re homing and I think a record year for getting dogs in foster and their carers joining the failed foster club. None of this would be possible without the help of each and every one of you - please give yourself a great big hug on behalf of every shepherd who would surely say woof and thank you too! Have a peaceful Christmas and a Wonderful 2016 xx

The lovely 9 year old Max from Coventry who went into emergency foster has now been adopted – thanks to Lynn for sorting everything out and thank you to Pattie and family for keeping this old boy safe and very good to hear he is very much loved and settled!



Libby is another lucky girl that was taken into emergency foster care after her owner sadly passed away, now a few months on they have told me that they can't bear to part with this girl and will be adopted by Lynette and Dave - another couple who will join the Failed Foster club - brilliant news for Libby and delighted to know she is now settled and safe.

Many thanks to volunteer Amanda Henning who advertised her doggie wheels in a previous newsletter. Now another volunteer and her boy Baloo are taking advantage of the wheels and a donation of £50 has been given to GSDR by Win. Here we see the stunning lad out for his first road trip - way to go Baloo there'll be no stopping him now!



Huge thanks go to Sue and John from the loveable Henry, they visited him in kennels and raised over £300 towards his kennel bill. Big WOOFs to you both.

The Miracle of Christmas in the Eastern region

I hear that we are winding down for Christmas. You could have fooled me!

There is an obvious resonance with Christmas in dog rescue circles. The general public think of cuddly puppies, given as Christmas presents and then put up for adoption in the new year, when the novelty has worn off. In rescue we tend to go beyond this and note Christmas to mark the length of stay in kennels of our dogs not fortunate to be in foster care.

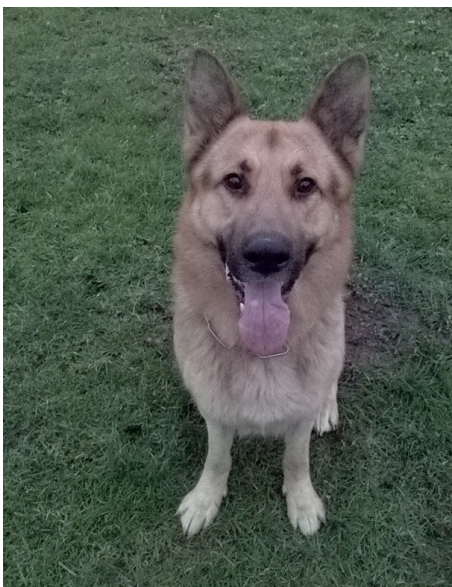
We have two who are facing their second year, here in Eastern region.

Poor Alfie and Milo were taken from a dreadful home over a year ago. Despite being persuaded to have them as GSD crosses, they have been DNA tested and neither has any GSD genes. They were so traumatised that they have needed extensive rehabilitation. There was some purpose to their being at our chosen training kennels, at one time. Now ready for rehoming, they wait ...



Diego seemed to be another facing his second Christmas. He is a big upstanding boy, who can intimidate and knows this. He has been a handful and failed in several homes. We knew that he had it in him to be a successful family member, as he had done well in a foster home once. Sadly, his carer there had to let him go for his own health reasons.

Diego seemed to be facing his second Christmas in kennels, when a miracle happened. If you had to write a checklist of the perfect home for Diego this one was it. In fact it would have been impossible to have ever aspired to a home such as this! We could never have hoped that his new owner would have competed at Crufts in obedience training. But she did. She comes from a well-known family of competitors and GSD breeders and has known and handled the breed at levels beyond our aspiration. Added to that, she fell for Diego the moment that she saw his profile on our website - It was one of those spine chilling moments of recognition. Now instead of the kennels, Diego is happily ensconced in his new home being pampered and adored. Happy holidays, for this boy!



Others have come to kennels in shock and trauma. We have a glut of three bitches, who are all there for the same reason. They are little divas who were allowed to take advantage and did so. Big time. Their owners were not deliberately neglectful, much less abusive. These girls were just not given the leadership that they needed and they took advantage of the situation. Apparently during assessment, one owner called her dog into the room and asked the children to get off the couch so that the dog could use it. Really, I am not kidding!

Actually of the three, her little girl is the easiest to train and the owner, remorsefully, has come to the realisation that it is she who is at fault. So she is currently undergoing training with a stooge dog to learn how to be an authoritative leader, whilst her girl is being trained in kennels. It is hoped to reunite this pair, both reborn so to speak, and work with them as a pair so that they can be together again by the holiday. What a Christmas gift for all concerned!

Happy Christmas DIEGO

The other two bitches sadly are far from this. They are so traumatised, coming from their enjoyment of power over a household to the shock of kennel life, that they are introverted and unresponsive. They are neither eating or accepting of any contact as yet. Both will improve, given time, and come out of themselves. They will be rehabilitated and we desperately hope to find new homes for them. It is a long and heart breaking process and it did not need to be like this. It seems all the worse at Christmas. I wonder how their one time owners enjoy their festive seasons?

Another of our little mites seemed to be set for a Christmas in kennels and has escaped. The whole of the Facebook world will know of Callie, who was recently wonderfully rehomed. She came to our local pound with another young dog early last year. They were both starved and neglected shamefully. Over nine months later, we seem to have reached a happy ending for them both. First Callie was rehomed, and now Spike is out of kennels and luxuriating in a special home as well.

Spike's journey was if anything more tortuous even than Callie's. He is a Border Collie and so unlikely to appeal for adoption in a GSD rescue but he was passed around the system, before we finally took responsibility for him. He was badly handled in another rescue and his suffering was compounded by their ignorance and callous disregard. Eventually, he came to GSDR as there were no other options for him. He appeared on our page – an incongruous little scrap -who was not immediately appealing to a GSD followership. Again there was a Facebook campaign and a home was found. In the meantime, he developed a terrible wound and was fostered as an emergency, for the sake of this healing in more sanitary conditions. We thought his life was at stake he was at such a low ebb.

As his health improved, he became more lively and his personality emerged. He thought chasing the family cat an interesting diversion and it was decided to move him to his new home earlier than anticipated. All seemed set at last for this little boy.



But within twenty-four hours this home broke down. We will never know why. And so ... kennels, again? Not a bit of it! The Christmas fairy was looking out for this boy. One of our volunteer team had expressed an interest in Spike's outcome, when she heard of his predicament. We turned to her and he is now in her very special home with a long suffering, sweet and very handsome GSD brother. The two play together wonderfully and Spike is at last beginning to believe that his luck might have changed. Can you guess what his Christmas wish might be?



The hammer came down on three very successful Christmas auctions . Huge thanks to the ladies who organised them, people who donated items and the very generous bidders.

Amanda's auction raised over £1200 to fund the travel costs of some very urgent dogs which were in high kill pounds.

Maria's auction raised over £750, and Debbie's over £600 to help towards our spiralling kennel costs.

There'll be more planned for the new year so people can dispose of those unwanted gifts!

A Life Changing Moment by Anne Leigh

This is about a one-year anniversary for me. I read the GSDR newsletter, at about this time last year, and my life changed forever! If you read on, be aware, be very aware...

Fiona had written an article appealing for volunteers in the Eastern Region. I began reading it with mild curiosity, as I was already a volunteer. I had not been asked to do anything in the entire time that I had been registered and so I wondered vaguely why there was a need for any more volunteers. Yes, I really was that naïve. I told you my life changed, didn't I?

Anyway, my mild curiosity was piqued and I read on. Then, I had a mindblowing moment of realization! I was and am still a complete wimp about dog rescue. I could never be one of those tough saints who go into hell holes to bring dogs out to rescues. I could not even do a dog assessment or a meet, in case it was traumatic and I looked into the dog's eyes. I once was asked to visit a shelter that I know, to see a 'likely dog'. He was lovely but quite unsuitable for me. I am still haunted to this day by having looked into his eyes and then having rejected him. When I remonstrated, the manager said, breezily, 'Well, it was worth a try, no harm done, eh?' Aaaaaaaaaaaaaargh!!!!

So, imagine my amazement when I read Fiona's article, and realized that I could do wimpish 'deskwork' and still help the cause. I might not be able to act for dogs but I could speak up for them and I could certainly speak about them (In fact, I remember a post on Facebook suggesting that I could bore to death, doing just that!) I learned that there were such people as screeners. And I was about to learn how important they are to us. I know that I had been on the receiving end of the process, when I adopted, but to be honest, I was in such a blurr of excitement that titles and roles hardly registered with me at all. Excitedly, I could see that I could do this and rang up about it straightaway!

Before I go on and frighten anyone off, I must make the point that volunteering with GSDR can be as much or as little as you can offer. It just so happened that I was making changes in my own life at that time anyway. I was considering resigning from the board of a local county charity. To be honest, I enjoyed the work but on a cost-benefit analysis, the costs clearly outweighed the benefits. I had to travel to meetings and worse, far worse, I had to look respectable and attempt a corporate image. The transformation from mad-hermit-dog woman to respectable-local-worthy was getting harder and harder to sustain.

I'll let you into a secret. I might sound vaguely cogent and half way respectable, but I look like a rough-sleeper most of the time! I always say that I work to achieve this look, as only someone rather wealthy could be so relaxed about being sooooo scruffy: I call it my eccentric millionaire persona! I won't quite go so far as to say that this is the best part of the job with GSDR for me, but it is up there – no dress code stress!

Starting work, real work, for GSDR felt like coming home. I can do the job, whenever I like, I get to play with my beloved computer (the Timewaster). I talk and write to people about dogs (did you guess, my favourite topic?) and I get to feel great about doing something useful. I had been doing voluntary work with the elderly, but they are not so loveable as dogs. My colleagues are great as well and my own back office team are the best. This job means that I get to stay with my own dogs and don't have the daily struggle with separation anxiety that leaving home always entails. Let me clarify: the dogs are fine about me going. The separation anxiety is all mine!

It might be that I am just a sad person – no, really, I have seriously considered that. But I find screening really exciting! You begin to talk to a complete stranger and you have no idea what will come from that conversation. You might be contacting ordinary old Joe Bloggs or someone who has competed at Crufts in dog obedience classes. And then you see the successful conclusion of your screening, in the adoption of a lovely needy dog to a good home. There is just no thrill to compare! I love to look at the monthly tally of adoptions and gloat: 'I did a quarter of that, and that and that...'

I still do screenings but have moved on from that job to an extent. I'm Mandi's gofer as well as dog coordinator now. The work grew to fill the time available. I choose to work harder for GSDR than for any job in my so called career, when I had one. I just do it because I love it and know no other way to get a kick like it. But it is all choice: really, you can do as much or as little as you can offer.

We need people with all kinds of talents: fostering, dog transport, home checks and fund raising. We really need everyone but no one comes to fundraise and that is so essential pleeeeeease! And if you're no good at this, do you have any friends who are? Do you go to a dog training club? Some of our best volunteers have come from these contacts.

There are traumatic times. I know myself and I can cope with these in conceptual form. It is the visual image that tears me apart. I shudder still as I remember certain pictures on Facebook. I live alone with my dogs and take sensible precautions not to become overwhelmed by the horror and everything that we cannot do. I look at the monthly tallies and concentrate upon what we do achieve. I am forever grateful for a chance to play my part. It is the quickest way to get to feel good about yourself that I know.

Did I ever tell you about the happy upheaval you caused in my life, Fiona?



It seems I'm making a habit of changing lives. A colleague lost her beloved Golden Retriever and mourned her loss for months, fearing she'd never find another who was looking for a home and suitable for her. One sentence was all it took. I called her over and said "I know you want a Retriever but what about a nice little Labrador" and the deal was done. That weekend they went off to meet the little Lab, just six months old and in kennels because she was too excitable for her family. Happy work mate, happy rescue contact and a very happy Labrador!



The South East team have had a count up and the grand total raised by their walk groups, famous Naff Raffles, quiz nights etc. etc. is £4251.58.

What a brilliant total team!

Christine and Nancy would like to thank everyone who has taken part in events to support the rescue and warn you to keep your eyes peeled for future events (possibly held in a beer garden!)



TFB ended the year on a cracking note by squeezing in an extra date on the 23rd December. Due to the mild weather the shorts are back!

Ray and Si have raised an amazing £12,037 this year and already have a whopping cheque in the pipeline from Santa Paws and something extra special from Support Adoption for Pets—more on this next time.

Brilliant work chaps, you two are just amazing.

How to Contact your Area Co-ordinators

South West

Cornwall / Devon / Somerset / Dorset / Wiltshire & Gloucester

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 mandyj22@live.co.uk

South East

Kent / Hertfordshire / Essex / London / Surrey / East & West Sussex / IOW / Hampshire / Berkshire / Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

Area Dog Co-ordinator: Christine Merritt 01702 544974 Christine.merrittgsd@gmail.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Nancy Cannell 01702 551213 /0794 9047139 nancy_c@hotmail.co.uk

Enquiries: Nancy Cannell 0794 9047139 gsdrsoutheast@gmail.com

Eastern

Norfolk / Suffolk / Cambridgeshire / Bedfordshire / Northants / Lincolnshire & Leicestershire

Area Co-ordinator: Mandi Wilks 01692 584772 / 07810 568862 mandigsdr@gmail.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Anne Leigh 01263 860864 ajpleighgsdr@gmail.com

Enquiries: Sarah Carrs 01603 270044

Central

Nottinghamshire / Derbys / Staffordshire / Shropshire / Worcestershire / Herefordshire / West Midlands & Warwickshire

Area and Dog Co-ordinator: Irene Culverwell 0161 282 3594 / 07778 150561 iculverwell21@hotmail.com

General enquiries: Bill Kitchen 01524 784953 / Melanie Fairbrother 0161 494 7728

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Andy Peake Razanne99@aol.com

North West

Cheshire / Manchester / Merseyside / Cumbria & Lancashire

Area and Dog Co-ordinator: Irene Culverwell 0161 282 3594 / 07778 150561 iculverwell21@hotmail.com

General enquiries: Bill Kitchen 01524 784953 / Melanie Fairbrother 0161 494 7728

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Andy Peake Razanne99@aol.com

North East

Northumberland / Durham / Yorkshire / Tyneside / Teesside & North Humberside

Area Co-ordinator: Angela Hargreaves 0113 225 5848 muddycat13@sky.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Julie Wilkinson 07736 815430 julie_wilki@o2.co.uk

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Gillian Marsden Gillian.l.marsden@ntlworld.com

Wales

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 mandyj22@live.co.uk

