



Hello and welcome to our autumn 2018 newsletter.

Well, what a summer we have had with one of the hottest years on record which has been testing for all of us but especially our furry friends.

Rehoming has been steady throughout the summer despite the holiday season, but we have had to be extra careful arranging adoptions because of the extreme temperatures. We even had to cancel some of our walk groups meetings because it was just too hot for the dogs.

It has been disappointing to see that throughout the summer that there have been many cases highlighted of dogs left in hot cars and even in baking hot conservatories. The stupidity of some people beggars belief.

On a sad note, our fantastic fundraising Team Fat Blokes have had to retire this summer because of ill health. Ray and Simon have gone above and beyond the call of duty, standing out in all weathers and out most weekends of the year for several years now raising thousands of pounds for GSDR. I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their absolute dedication and for all their hard work in helping team North East with their fundraising activities. I know they will be missed by all they have met over the last few years.

Special thanks to all those volunteers on the front line having to deal with the public which is proving ever more challenging. Everyone is a volunteer who does this because of their love for the dogs; they should not have to tolerate rudeness and timewasters!

It's coming up to dare I say the C word - Christmas. If you are shopping online, please go through Easyfundraising and nominate GSDR and we will receive a small percentage of the transaction price. To date, we have raised over £14,000 thanks to our happy online shoppers.

Thank you to all our volunteers and our supporters.

"For centuries poets, some poets, have tried to give a voice to the animals, and readers, some readers, have felt empathy and sorrow. If animals did have voices, and they could speak with the tongues of angels—at the very least with the tongues of angels—they would be unable to save themselves from us. What good would language do? Their mysterious otherness has not saved them, nor have their beautiful songs and coats and skins and shells and eyes."— Joy Williams

Best Wishes,

*Jayne*



# KIRKSTALL FESTIVAL

The 2018 Kirkstall festival took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July and, like always, was a great day for GSDR NE. The current total stands at £1240 however with many high-value items to be used in future events (Raffles/Santa Paws/Scratch-cards etc), this is expected to rise substantially!

One highlight of the day was the success of the XBOX Raffle, which was one by a lovely young couple (right), sadly not the same winners as last year, although they did try! A big thanks here go to Ray Betts who managed to bag GSDR not one, but two free XBOX One Consoles – one complete with games and accessories.



It was a special day which included a guest appearance from the beautiful Radar (thanks go to Debbie for entrusting him to us and to Janine for acting as baby-sitter) and a send-off to Ray and Si who, after a huge spell as fund-raising coordinators for the region, are stepping down.



As usual, the event was supported by a plethora of amazing volunteers which included: Alison E, Teresa, Dawn, Hayley, Alastair, Shirley, Janine, Fellina, Ray S, Ray L, Si, Pete, Tina, Claire, Louise, Julie, Angela, Neil, Adrian and Sharon S. In addition, thank you to everyone who donated items for the tombola, those who assisted with transport and to everyone who came to see us on the day.

Furthermore, I would like to mention the companies who supported the event. They included: Tesco, MOD Pizza, Pizza Express, Ruff 2 Fluff, Russell Eaton Hair, Team Sport, Costa Coffee, Sainsburys, Malmaison, Rev de Cuba, Hyde Park Picture House, LUFC, Shopping Made Easy, Monster-Shop.co.uk, York City Knights and Thorner Gin Festival.

Lastly, I would like my co-organiser Sarah Betts, who was a fantastic partner in crime! -thanks, Toni Pickering

# SHEPFEST 2018

SHEPFEST 2018 - Saturday 30th June-Sunday 1st July.

Our final total raised this year was £2,285.50! We were a bit concerned about the heat for such an event but after asking our local vet for advice we created a 'Cool Corner' with paddling pools, wet towels, fans, and thankfully we had no casualties.

We had lots of campers and after a busy day we all had an enjoyable evening with drinks and takeaways, but unfortunately due to the dryness of the grass field and surrounding area we couldn't light the bonfire.

We did make some changes to previous years - the Northumberland Walk Group ran a Dog Show with classes (and rosettes) for everyone, and our agility course included a few new 'rustic' style jumps which proved good fun.

Something very new this year was our attempt to set a Copmanthorpe Kennels SHEPFEST record of the number of GSD's in the same place at the same time. A lot of thought was put into how to get a photo of so many dogs and the solution was a friendly farmer with his telehandler and Mark Panther with his camera !! Up Mark went to capture everyone—93 GSD's - so thanks to everyone who attended.

To finish I would just like to thank everyone who helped in any way. Many of them are not GSD owners or GSDR members but all worked hard all day in very hot conditions to make it another very successful event, Denise Lea.



**Daring Debbie Harlow** chopped off her luscious long locks, raising £1000 for GSDR and donated her hair to The Little Princess Trust—an amazing organisation who provides real hair wigs for children and young adults dealing with cancer. I admit I thought she was crazy, but it looks stunning!



## The Thrill of It by Ann Leigh

People sometimes ask me what I do with my time, as I am retired. I don't have a social life. I don't go out shopping or visiting family. I live like a hermit, with my dogs and you can sense their mystification and pity. Sometimes they feel inspired to suggest that we have lunch ... sometime. I decline as politely as I can, and occasionally, get around to telling them something like the real reason. I would just be too bored, as my everyday life is so thrilling. Yes I am really using this word. I don't know anything more so, than the life I lead now – as I am – writing this – sitting at my computer. No, I don't visit porn sites! I help to rehome dogs and yes, I find doing anything to support that, beyond thrilling.

I have worked all my professional life with people, either teaching or attempting to modify deviant behaviour. It was good work and I have felt that I could live with myself. I would hope that I was achieving something worthwhile, but I never actually knew. Now I do. There is something wonderfully tangible about rehoming dogs. They are innocent living creatures, in trouble, and GSDR sorts out their lives.

We see some of them as pathetic wrecks and then they get a new home and they blossom. Angry dogs become gentle and loving, traumatised dogs become confident and the physical wrecks are transformed. This is more than enough in itself, but there is even more. The win/win part of this transaction is that everyone benefits. Their owners are relieved of their guilt and the adopters are overjoyed to have a new family member, who they see relax phoenix-like into another dog entirely. And, the whole GSDR team rejoices with them.

The best part is that we do it over and over. I don't know the statistics, but GSDR rehomes hundreds of dogs each year nationally and, in Eastern alone, we are successful with best part of a hundred annually. It isn't a fluke that works sometimes. We do it often ... and regularly.

Amongst all of these, there are some dogs that just grasp the imagination and become *causes celebre*. Raven is one such. There has rarely been as much joy at an adoption as at hers. She had been picked up off the streets, months earlier, came through the pound to GSDR, and then languished in kennels for ages. The reason? She is a Caucasian and was untrained and frustrated during her initial kennel life in Wales. Then, she came to Stonelodge Pet Hotel Kennels in Eastern: and the magic of this place began to work upon her. All of our dogs here improve: they become gentled and happy again, under the care of Nicki and Helen and their team.

Eventually, to the disbelief of those who knew her originally, we were able to show footage of Raven being taken out and meeting other dogs and coping in her new gentle way with everyday life.

One of our team had taken Raven for 'time out' from the kennels. He then posted videos on Facebook of how she behaved perfectly and of how gentle she could be. Another volunteer, from another area, saw this and then they just fell into each others' arms. This was almost literally true, as Raven jumped the stable door into reception, ran to her new prospective owner, and threw herself down for a tummy rub.

He fell for her, in that moment, and the rest is history. One day, she was a kennel dog and the next she was a celeb, meeting and greeting at his place of business: a hair salon. Who would have ever have thought it?



I do not exaggerate to say that there was widespread rejoicing, throughout the UK, thanks to Facebook. This is one of its most glorious functions – spreading the joy.



Some dogs are physically at the very end of their strength and at death's door. The most seriously ill dog, that I have seen rescued, was Ella from Cyprus. And, this little girl had such an important role to fulfill! This poor girl was afflicted with leishmaniasis, a disease unknown here, because it is only transmitted by sand flies. It attacks the skin and a dog can become covered in painful lesions. If left, it progresses to the internal organs and then can kill. Luckily, although in agony at the state of her skin condition, Ella's organs were not yet affected and she seemed to be viable, which she proved to be. Sadly, her progress was not without setbacks. The operation to spay her, prior to transportation, was performed clumsily

and it weakened her system. The disease, which had been latent, is opportunistic and it seized upon her weakened state to break out again. Ella needed further expensive treatment, here in the UK. Poor baby. She had suffered so much and then, for her to have another occurrence, seemed to be such a cruel twist.

Luckily for Ella, her new owner, has the means and is generous to her dogs. Ella has cost thousands of pounds to make well, but not a penny of that cost was begrudged. All worked to the good.

The lady who adopted her, is a long time adopter with GSDR. She had just endured the most traumatic loss of a beloved rescue transported to the UK, before Ella. We then, rehomed a supposedly cat-tested dog with her, which proved to be nothing of the sort. She had seen and was attracted to Ella on line, even though she knew that she needed care. We were confident in her commitment and we knew that Ella would be in the best possible hands. Our hearts were in our mouths, though. We already felt that this lady had been let down by GSDR. The cat issue was traumatic and fate had dealt her such a hard blow with her earlier bereavement so soon after her other adoption. Would all be well for this poor little girl and her devoted owner?

Well it was. Just look at Ella now .



People sometimes ask how I can cope with the cruelty. I find intentional harm the hardest thing to deal with. And, the simple answer is that I don't. I know that it exists and I will do what I can to help, but I cannot dwell upon this, or become overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem. Kudos to all who do. I just don't have that strength of temperament. I cannot dwell upon the dark side of Facebook. Even the images are too much to bear. I devote my whole life to rescue but I can only deal with what I can address. If GSDR and our team in the East can do something practical, then we will – otherwise I cannot cope with knowing and just emoting. I cannot spend 'a whole day crying', as you hear so often in Facebook posts. There are other dogs that need to be helped and I need to get on with that.



Having said this, the victims of unspeakable cruelty do come to our attention. One such, I named Faith because she showed such faith in the universe and such a will to live. I was haunted by her plight in Romania. She had been caught by a wire trap, that Romanians set to catch street dogs. She had broken free with the wire noose still around her belly, embedded into her flesh. She was already pregnant and so gave birth and suckled her young, whilst in agony from this hideous device. This noose both crippled her and made caring for her pups all but impossible!

Her will to survive and care for her pups was both heartrending and inspiring.



Faith was rescued by the wonderful, brave Romanian rescuers, who live with this hellish reality, all the time. They regularly come across dogs and puppies, discarded on the streets and take them into their care, without any money to cope with all the costs. There are many rescuers and many UK initiatives and routes to the UK and elsewhere. There are many people working in this rescue task. GSDR is merely one of these.

Happily, Faith came to the attention of a rescuer in Romania, who is supported by the incredible Amanda Mills, of GSDR. She fundraises relentlessly in the UK for these poor little lost souls, both for their care and medical expenses in Romania and their passport and transport costs to the UK.

Happily, Faith was 'spoken for,' before her arrival in the UK. A wonderful adopter heard of her plight and nowadays she lives like a princess.

And her pups? They have all found wonderful homes here in the UK also. They too, were all lucky enough to go through the Stonelodge system and emerge as strong, socialised, confident little characters ready for their new lives.

How could anything compare with the joy of knowing that these miracles happen?

How could one be any more privileged than to have the chance to play a part in this?

There are ups and downs. We do feel the pain of our dogs as well. But, the successes more than compensate.

Now, can you see why I say that my life is so thrilling?

**When I am old and grey**  
my steps might be slower.

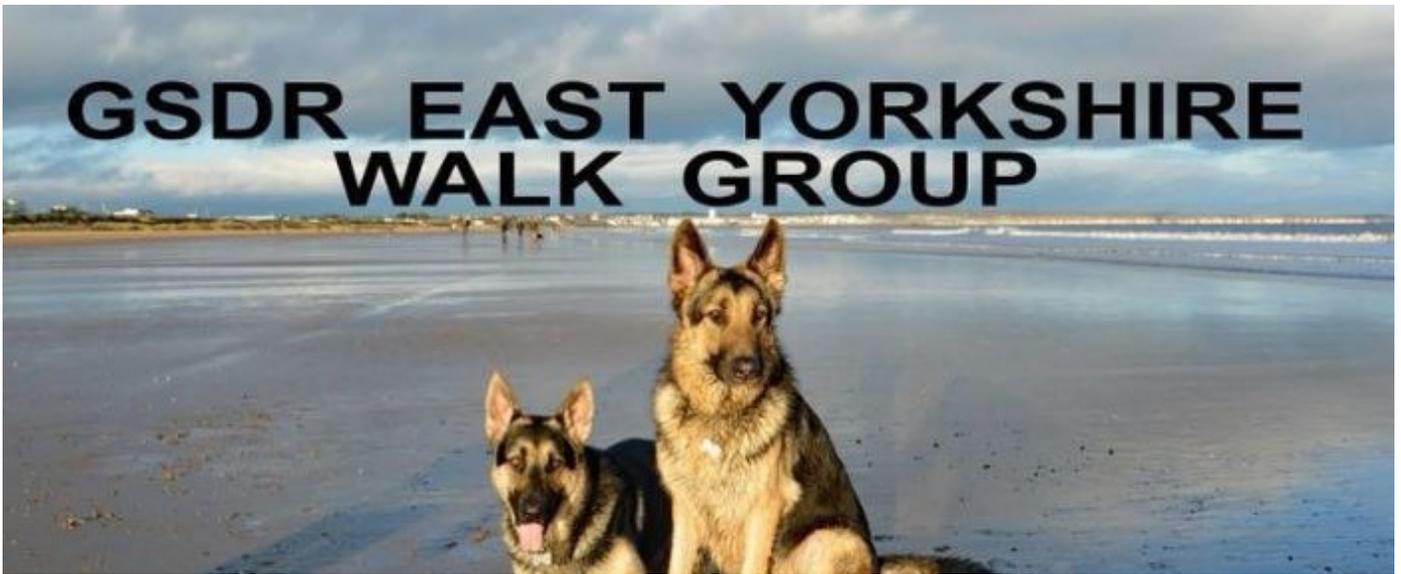
I may not hear you as well.  
I may not see you as well.  
I may not feel as well.

**But**

My love will be the same.  
My devotion will be the same.

My heart and soul are  
grateful for all that you  
have done and do .....





**The East Yorkshire Walk Group joined in the summer revelry with their Summer Walk, BBQ and prize draw which raised a staggering £1431.29!**



Sharon Cook would like to say thanks - to Mark Panther for supplying cold drinks, cakes and helping set up. Also to his lovely dad who was a great help and a big thank you to Mark's mum for baking her legendary sausage rolls. Thank you to Simon Porter for the use of his field and for leading the walk. Thanks to Norman Richardson for making the effort to support us after being so poorly recently and for cooking the onions! Thank to Lea Tyler and Bill Welburn for an amazing BBQ experience and Lisa Davies for all her help and the free range eggs.

Huge thanks to Kerry Louise Hickson for all your help and organising the cake in memory of Chase & Dog, much loved and missed members of the group.



At their recent group walk they raised a further £320, there's just no stopping these generous folk! The lovely Jazz attended her first group walk and is looking for her forever home, she's currently in foster with two very handsome boys - look at the joy on her face.



The group have more plans for their fundraising finale, The Grand Christmas Hamper Raffle, we'll report back next year how that went.



## 2019 GSDR Calendar

Preparations for the 2019 GSDR Calendar are underway.

Do you have a GSDR dog *who* has a story that would be good to appear in the calendar?

Send your nominations, with a few paragraphs about their story and a good quality picture to:

[janinekerr@sky.com](mailto:janinekerr@sky.com)

Closing date for nominations is

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

*Please note, pictures need to be landscape profile and with no humans in, although some photo-editing can be done if needed.*



## News from the Central & North West Regions from Irene Culverwell

Many thanks to our volunteers Ray & Karen for thinking of GSDR at their weekend fun class to raise money in memory of one of their late committee members.

A huge £600 donation was sent to the rescue by Preston & Fylde GSD Club.

Fantastic and thank you so much for thinking of the sheps in need.

The summer has seen a fairly quiet time in terms of adoption but thankfully we have had the assistance of a couple of wonderful people who have kept dogs out of kennels by fostering.

Diesel was a severe case of neglect when our volunteer Barry went to visit, he obviously had a chronic ear infection (which is still ongoing for veterinary treatment) and he was in desperate need of some TLC. In stepped Doreen and Alex to take in this boy. Since being in their foster care Diesel has had a trip to the groomers and had his matted coat washed and groomed. GSDR has paid for his veterinary treatment to try and alleviate the pain in his blocked ear canal, it is a slow process but some progress is being made and slowly but surely Diesel is putting on weight.

Diesel is still looking for his forever home but for now he is a lovely foster home who I can't thank enough as I doubt he would have had such loving one to one care if his had been commercial kennels.



Another foster carer who is worth her weight in gold is June Reed, after taking in emergency pair Blade and Sasha and looking after them for weeks before they were moved into another foster home with the lovely Marlene she has once again come to the aid of Molly.

Poor Molly was in a loving family home but an incident with the child on the property meant she had to be removed asap even though technically she hadn't done anything wrong. Anyway, as the summer months mean private kennels are full and difficult to secure it was with trepidation that GSDR asked June once again to help. No one need have worried she wouldn't see a dog in need and once again she has opened her doors to help.

So far neither Diesel or Molly have attracted any interest in finding a permanent home but fingers crossed their forever homes come soon but, in the meantime, thank you foster carers for giving them a lifeline.



Thank you Barry for helping with an urgent case which came in via another rescue to help GSD X Max who was potentially at threat of PTS. He was safely placed in kennels where he was found to be a lovely friendly boy whose only crime was to not like male dogs. Barry's home check was informed about Max's plight and made an appointment to meet this friendly boy.

Whilst at the kennels Barry knew there was another shepherd called Bella who was also looking for a new home and mentioned her plight. Diane didn't hesitate to meet Bella and as luck would have it our lovely Diane was happy to give both dogs a home. This doesn't happen very often, the gods were surely smiling on Max and Bella who are loving their new life together and their new mum – good result all round!

### Donate while you shop

With the C word looming—it'll be here before you know it, don't forget there's a few ways in which you can raise funds for GSDR when shopping on line.



#### You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organisation by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk)

GSDR has raised over £14,000 to date from donations when people have shopped on line through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)



You just register and then search for your chosen retailer and watch the donations roll in....you can see at a glance how much your on line shopping has raised, it's money for nothing!



You've raised

£413.74

3p in the last 30 days



Your latest donation

3p

From 28th Aug 2018



Your cause has raised

£14,112.59

£85.84 in the last 30 days

## How to Contact your Area Co-ordinators

### South East

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

Area Co-ordinator: Christine Merritt 01702 544974 [Christine.merrittgsd@gmail.com](mailto:Christine.merrittgsd@gmail.com)

Dog Co-ordinator: Julie Plastow 07715 172372 [Julie.plastow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Julie.plastow@hotmail.co.uk)

Enquiries Linda Wood 01245 363868 [lingsd24@gmail.com](mailto:lingsd24@gmail.com)

### South West

Cornwall / Devon / Somerset / Dorset / Wiltshire & Gloucester

Area Co-ordinator: Jo Martin 07921607001

Dog Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 [info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk](mailto:info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk)

### Eastern

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

Area Co-ordinator: Ann Leigh 01263 860864 [ajpleighgsdr@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleighgsdr@gmail.com)

Dog Co-ordinator: Suzanne Thurman 01472 459528 [s.thurman@sky.com](mailto:s.thurman@sky.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](mailto:iculverwell21@hotmail.com)

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

### North West

Cheshire / Manchester / Merseyside / Cumbria & Lancashire

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

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

### North East

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

Area Co-ordinator: Angela Hargreaves 0113 225 5848 [angelagsdr@gmail.com](mailto:angelagsdr@gmail.com)

Dog Co-ordinator: Julie Wilkinson 07736 815430 [julie.gsdr@gmail.com](mailto:julie.gsdr@gmail.com)

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Gillian Marsden [Gillian.l.marsden@ntlworld.com](mailto:Gillian.l.marsden@ntlworld.com)

Enquiries: Sharon Coates 01751 417197

### Wales

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 [info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk](mailto:info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk)

Dog Co-ordinator: Jo Martin 07921607001

