



# Greyhound Rescue Wales E-Newsletter

January 2009

Charity No. 1059733

## In This Issue

- February Poetry Reading
- Christmas Raffle Results
- New look website
- 2009 Events
- Foster homes
- Volunteering
- Membership renewal reminder
- And finally..

## Links

**Greyhound Rescue Wales**

[www.greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk](http://www.greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk)

## ***A Happy New Year and a warm welcome to the first newsletter of 2009***

*In this edition, we've lots to tell you about. The Executive have been beavering away and will shortly be unveiling our full programme of events for 2009 – we've got some special ones planned. We also wanted to highlight some of the ways people can get more involved and most importantly, have fun with your hounds.*

*Also, don't forget that membership renewal falls due in January. Your membership helps us to help hounds - over 85% of the funds raised goes straight to care, feeding and veterinary bills for the dogs we look after.*

---

## ***Poetry Reading - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February***

**Poems of Sight and Flight**

With

**Chris Kinsey**

***BBC Wildlife Poet of the Year and 'Greyhound Laureate'.***

**at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea Marina**

**7.00 Reception: bar and café open.**

**Exhibition of Photographs by Elizabeth Clare North.**

**7.30 Readings.**

**Tickets: £5 (£4 concessions)**

***All proceeds to Greyhound Rescue Wales & Gower Bird Hospital.***

**To order, email [info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk](mailto:info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk)**

**Or telephone: 0300 0123 999.**

Chris Kinsey will read a varied selection of hound and bird poems from new work, her critically acclaimed collection, ***Kung Fu Lullabies*** and from ***Houndlove*** (Poems of Love and Longing, Pont Books, 2008). Chris received an Arts Council of Wales bursary. Her work has been broadcast on Radio 4 and widely published. She writes a Nature Diary for Cambria.

---

## *Christmas Raffle Results*

*The annual Christmas Raffle raised a thumping £1066.50.*

*We would like to thank all the people that contributed and donated prizes to our annual raffle and once again the generosity was overwhelming. Thanks to prize donors: Marks and Spencer at Culverhouse Cross, Tesco at Culverhouse and Barry, Morrisons at Barry waterfront, Walston Castle Beefeater at Wenvoe, Gilbys restaurant, Cardiff Bay, Sue and Neil from Gilmor Hair and Beauty, Stuart from Shwartzkopf, Di Thomas, Debbie Bevan for a family ticket to Aladdin. A special thanks to the CSMA for the top prize of a weekend break in a luxury log cabin, and to Rhys Thomas from the Cardiff Blues – rugby players are asked all the time for signed shirts, and didn't fail in coming up trumps in donating a shirt signed by the team. Finally we would like to thank everybody who took the time in supporting us and selling raffle tickets.*

*The lucky prize winners were:-*

*1st Mrs. M Gregory of Abercynon, Weekend break*

*2nd Mr K Toms, London, signed shirt*

*3rd Darcy James of Manorbier, Tenby. £65 leisure vouchers*

*4th Miss H. Lambert of Porth Rhondda, Christmas hamper*

*5th Michelle Harley of Tonpentre, Rhondda, Cheese and wine hamper*

*6th Mr. B Davies of Tynte Mountain Ash, Champagne hamper*

*7th Ms Mari Williams of Neath, Haircare hamper*

*8th Ms Kavita Nathan, Maritime way Swansea, collectable teddies*

*9th Mr and Mrs A. Scott, of Cilfynydd, dinner for 2 at Gilby's*

*10th Sue Pile, Pembrokeshire, Dog portrait*

*11th Mr L Thomas, of Pentrebach Merthyr, Panto family ticket, Kindly given back for redraw.*

---

## New look website

*After a lot of planning and preparation behind the scenes last year, our new website went "live" just after Christmas. If you haven't visited recently, we recommend a visit. The site will be expanding further over the next few months: in particular, we'll be adding a brand new merchandise section, and a bigger variety of online forms. If you think of anything you'd like to see on the website, have any comments on the new look or spot any mistakes, please email us at [info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk](mailto:info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk)*

*You'll also see that the design features plenty of greyhound photos. If you have any good quality photos that you'd like to see on the website, please send them to us. Ideally, photos should be clear and feature dogs rather than people, without a fussy background.*

*The new website is updated every few days, so why not bookmark it and visit regularly?*

---

## 2009 Events

*Since the last newsletter, we've been able to confirm lots of our planned events for 2009, and are putting the finishing touches to a few more. Now that we've all got our new calendars and diaries, here are some important dates you can plan for. Our May show and fun day at Pontardawe Riverside Park is being held again, after its successful debut last year. It will be taking place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May.*

*Our Annual GRW Show will be taking place at Pembrey Country Park again this year on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September.*

*The annual Last Hope sponsored walk will be on 21<sup>st</sup> June at Brynbach Park.*

*We've also put together a full programme of store collections in a variety of locations across Wales. These are a major contributor to our fundraising and full details of the programme can be found on the website, along with contact details for each one. Even if you can spare just a few hours, it makes a huge difference. These events also are a great way of raising awareness of what wonderful companions and friends greyhounds can be.*

*Additionally, we are looking at some more greyhound walks – full details will be published next month, and an exciting Easter event. During the summer, we are hoping to have a presence at a number of shows and events, such as Game fairs – these make a great day out for all the family. If you'd like to help on a stall, why not let us know? More details*

*will follow as these dates and events are confirmed.*

**Can you help out at a store collection on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January at Llanelli, Morrisons supermarket?** It should be a busy day as the Scarlets will be playing at home. If you can help, please contact Sandra Morris on 01646 651262.

## ***Foster Homes and Volunteering***

*Have you ever thought of fostering? We are always searching for additional foster homes for the greyhounds and lurchers that come into our care. Fostering is very valuable as it allows us to assess a dog's behaviour in the home before they go out for adoption. In this way, we can make sure of a close match between the new home and the dog, thus making for a successful permanent adoption. Sometimes also dogs come into our care that we'd prefer to see in a home environment rather than in a kennel. For instance, when a dog is very elderly, convalescing or has always lived in a home environment, even the best kennels (and ours are fabulous) can be a bit stressful. There is simply no substitute for oodles of TLC.*

*Fosterers receive an allowance every week for food and other expenses, all veterinary bills are covered and there is a full support mechanism of advice and specialist behaviourist care, when needed. If you'd like to find out more about how you can help, why not call or email Sandra Morris? Telephone 01646 651262 or email [petdogconsultant@btinternet.com](mailto:petdogconsultant@btinternet.com)*

*If fostering doesn't appeal, there are always lots of ways you can help the charity. For example, sometimes we need help in transporting dogs from homes to kennels, or from kennels to fosterers. Could you assist? Mileage payments are made.*

*Maybe you'd like to be a homechecker, helping to assess new homes in your area and matching them with their perfect dog. This is very rewarding work, and hugely satisfying when you see the wonderful bond that develops between dogs and their owners. Again, mileage allowances are paid for all travel.*

*Other ways you can help might be simply putting up one of our posters in a shop or veterinary surgery, selling raffle tickets at Christmas or always by helping out at a collection. We list events and contacts on our website. If you feel you might be able to help, please email [info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk](mailto:info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk)*

## *And Finally*

We just could not resist sharing this lovely picture of Bounder who was recently homed and his feline friend.



## *Email addresses and contacts*

*National helpline and emergency number 0300 0123 999*

*Membership – queries, joining, renewal - Jan Stanton  
jan.stanton@btinternet.com*

*PR - Website updates – Alain Thomas  
info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk*

*Email newsletter views, queries and to add/remove names  
Greyhoundwales@btinternet.com*

*Secretary – Kathryn Woodhouse  
greyhoundwales@btinternet.com*