



# Welcome to the Autumn issue!



Hello, and welcome to the 'new look' Autumn Newsletter. Since the last issue, a lot has happened within IRR. In 2013 we re-homed 92 dogs, and so far in 2014, up until the beginning of September, we have already re-homed 85. Some of these were from mainland Europe in response to appeals for help, but the vast majority of our dogs are re-homed from Ireland, where we actively seek dogs in need of rescue.

This increase in dogs is a worrying trend, but thanks to the generosity of our supporters IRR has managed to cope - so far! But we still need your help! Rescuing and re-homing a Golden comes with a huge cost attached and requires a large team of people to help. This includes not only the Transporters, Fosterers and Adopters, but also the Home Checkers and Fund Raisers. We also want to thank each and every one of you who knit, sew, bake and donate items to sell in our Gift Shop, IRR Ebay page, or our new FB Auction page, plus those who generously purchase these unique items.

Over the next few issues I will be introducing you to some of these roles and the people who carry them out on our behalf. The first one is a Home Checker, because, after a dog has been rescued, a home must be checked for a prospective Fosterer or Adopter to take them. Hopefully this will provide an insight into what they do!

2014 is our tenth year of the organisation, and Yvette & Tim Jones arranged a 10 year celebration Reunion in Stafford, which was very well attended by many of the IRR dogs and their families, as well as supporters. Well done to the Jones family - there is a full report a little further down.

We sadly said goodbye to Sandie Bissett, one of the founding members of the Rescue, who resigned in June. Sandie has worked tirelessly rescuing Golden Retrievers in Ireland, often in very difficult circumstances, and too many dogs to mention owe her their lives. We wish her well and hope she enjoys some well deserved time for herself. A big 'Thank You' for all.

We have also had a change in the Adoption/Foster/Home Check Team, and would like to thank Aileen, Leonie and Leanna for all their hard work over the past year, and welcome in their place Alison Button, Lisa Birt and Paula Hughes. With the old team's help, they have stepped into their roles without missing a beat, and dogs continue to arrive! All our rescue dogs are compliant with the DEFRA regulations for dogs entering Great Britain, which means that dogs need to wait at least 3 weeks after receiving their Rabies vaccine before they can be transported. If dogs have to be kennelled during this time the costs are enormous - so we are urgently seeking foster homes in Ireland to help with this phase of the rescue process.

Ten years ago who could have imagined the success and standing that Irish Retriever Rescue hold today! We continue to go from strength to strength, but we still need your support, more so now than at any other time.

Chrissie Heath, our Fund Raising Coordinator, will explain in this issue all of the ways in which you can help, however small. A Sponsor Dog costs £10 per year, and if every one of you reading this gave us just a pound, we would be able to save even more Goldies!

Please keep your contributions for the Newsletter coming in! If you have any reports on events you have organised, or future events you would like advertised, please email me.

*vanessa*

irrnewsletter@vannessastollery.co.uk

## 10th Anniversary Reunion - A GREAT SUCCESS



The tenth Anniversary Reunion was held on 6th September and everyone agrees that Yvette and Tim created an amazingly successful weekend for all the IRR supporters who attended. The weather was good to us and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. There were displays and stalls, a very busy refreshments tent and above all, many, many happy Goldies!! A full report, including class winners, will be published on both the website and our Facebook page. Meanwhile, here are a few pictures which show what fun was had by all. Well done Yvette and Tim - a great result for many months of hard, exhausting work.



## FUNDRAISING

Chrissie Heath

**Why I do it** In my life things have generally just happened to me. I don't recall having any master plan to do or be anything. What I do know is that animals have always been part of my life in some way, so when I left the NHS I knew I wanted to do something to help them - and then fate intervened.

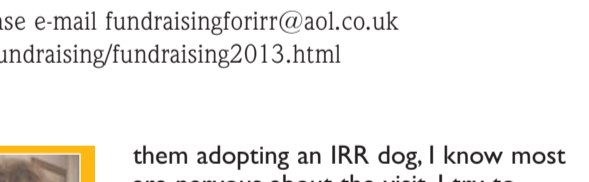
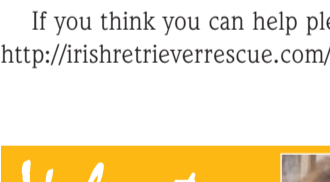
Shortly after leaving work my beloved Emma sadly passed away. I was totally and utterly bereft and starting to google for golden retrievers when I came across this organization called Irish Retriever Rescue. Hmm I thought, I wonder if they need any help?

My very first contact was with Pauline Jefferey, one of the founders of IRR. We spent many hours on the phone and eventually I agreed that I could help her with some fundraising.

It is now nearly five years on and the hours have gradually grown to about 25 on a good week, but I wouldn't raise it any other way. It's fun, it's very rewarding and you know that the money being raised is going to help some poor golden somewhere. My Emma would have liked it.

**How you can help!** The Fundraising role in IRR has grown out of all recognition over the past few years but it is not just something that I do, it is something many people do by giving their time, money and often their houses for events. Whilst Chris (my hubby) and I do things like car boots, table top sales etc, many others are now fundraising in different ways - and that is what IRR really needs... enthusiastic people giving it a go! There is a fundraising ideas page on our website and a toolkit which can be sent to anyone on request, BUT you are not limited to the ideas there, we constantly need bright people with fresh ideas for fundraising.

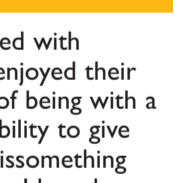
Here are a few things we already do to start you off! Run a **Marathon**; hold a **Coffee Morning**; put a **Collection Box** in your local shop; book a space outside a **Supermarket**; organise a **Paws Walk**; **Sponsor a Dog**; purchase items from the **Gift Shop**; **Donate** some cash; buy online through **Easy Fundraising**; join our **FaceBook Auction Page**....



Fundraising is vital to the success of the Charity. Without money IRR cannot save dogs from dreadful situations and get them safely into loving homes and it is this that gets me out of bed in the morning. I can think of no better reward than seeing a once abused and broken dog running around happy and healthy. Can you?

If you think you can help please e-mail fundraisingforirr@aol.co.uk <http://irishretrieverrescue.com/fundraising/fundraising2013.html>

## Volunteer Profile



**Homechecker Maggie Hilton**

From a child, I have lived with dogs/other animals and enjoyed their company - the pure joy of being with a happy animal and their ability to give love without judgement. I something wonderful to experience. I have been home checking for various Rescues for over 20 years. I find it so rewarding to contribute towards an animal (in this case Golden Retrievers) finding them loving, forever homes and knowing the personal joy this brings to both humans and the Goldies.

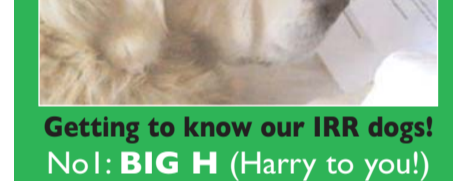
Although I am checking on people, their homes and garden with a view to

them adopting an IRR dog, I know most are nervous about the visit. I try to make it as informal as possible while, at the same time, making mental notes and answering the questions on our form. I usually take one of my Goldies (with permission of the applicant) who does a marvellous job at checking out the fences.... if there's a hole, one of mine will find it! There's a lot to learn from how your dog reacts in their home too.

Through home checking I have met some lovely people and gorgeous dogs. When training with the RSPCA, I was told "always trust your instinct - if something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't" and ask yourself "Would I Leave My Dog(s) here?"

Thank you Maggie for this insight into the job of Home Checker. If you feel you could help us in the process of re-homing rescue dogs, please email Paula at [irr.homechecker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:irr.homechecker@yahoo.co.uk)

## The CHARLIE FARLEY Five Minute Interview



Getting to know our IRR dogs! No.1: **BIG H** (Harry to you!)

**CF** You are an IRR Rescue Big H. Can you tell us when were you rescued and where from?

**BH** Aug 13 2006 Aileens via Dublin

**CF** What is your Hooman's name?

**BH** Her and Dad

**CF** How do you like your Forever Home? Are they nice to you?

**BH** Luurv it, they had no choice but to love me and didn't take long to establish myself as the Big Boy in Town, then they moved me to Scotland where it's all Husky ladies and Golden Doodle woosies!!

**CF** Do you have any other dogs living with you? What are their names?

**BH** Lucy, I think she is the Boss but ehfff, I know best

**CF** How do you spend your day?

**BH** Brekkie at 8:00, pub at 12:00 with Dad, shop charming the ladies then pub at teatime, home dinner and log fire

**CF** What makes you happiest of all?

**BH** TBFMWTLWB and 25/12 every year. (Ed: thebigfatmanwiththelongwhitebeard)

**CF** What do you most hate (and what are Squidgies)?

**BH** Squirrels, hate them - I have lots in my garden and they exhaust me!!!

**CF** What is your favourite toy Big H?

**BH** Rudolph, given to me by Joe last Crimbo that goes into the woods with me and I have a duck from Auntie Chrissie in my bed - sssshhhh don't tell the ladies pleaseee!

**CF** Are you a Good Dog?

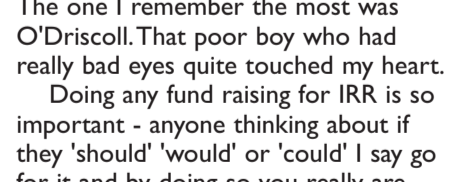
**BH** Ha, ha, ha, I try - NOT

**CF** Tell me the naughtiest thing you have done?

**BH** I have never done anything naughty in my life that I want to remember - hmmm - maybe.....

**CF** Well thank you Big H for this interesting insight into your world... I will now go and lie in a darkened room with a biscuit.

## Pier to Pier Sponsored Walk



LISA SMART

One of our supporters, Lisa Smart, took part in the Hastings to Eastbourne Pier to Pier challenge this July, walking 16.8 miles in aid of two charities, one of which was naturally IRR.

Lisa said 'It goes without saying this was a great opportunity to raise a few pounds for my chosen charities.

'Well it was fun for about 2 hours, then I suddenly realised just how far 16.8 miles was! But even though it became very hard, the thought of all those wonderfully kind people who had donated their hard earned cash to support me really did get me through.

As there's a lot of thinking time when trudging your way to Eastbourne, I thought of all the IRR dogs the charity had helped since I had been involved. The one I remember the most was O'Driscoll. That poor boy who had really bad eyes quite touched my heart.

Doing any fund raising for IRR is so important - anyone thinking about if they 'should' 'would' or 'could' I say go for it and by doing so you really are contributing in a wonderful way. Without funds no rescue can function. Although I was cold, knackered, hungry and had blisters that could be considered epic - I hope my small contribution helped another O'Driscoll!!

## "What We Like"

"What We Like" will be a regular Newsletter column. It will feature special items which have caught our eye, and we think you might like!

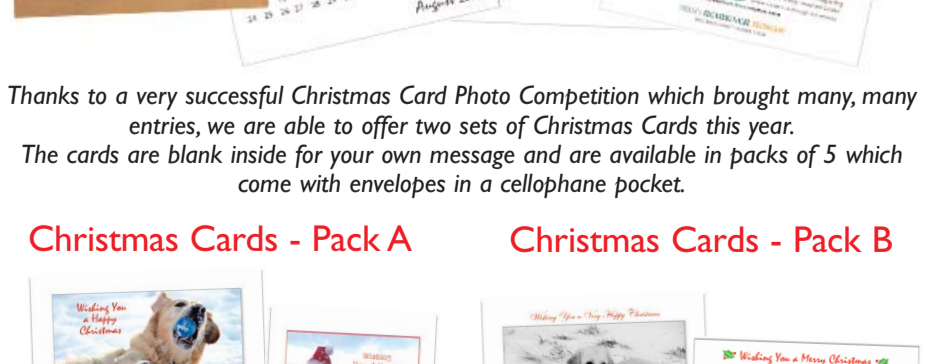


Kass Mollie makes personalised fabric charms like this heart featuring your dog's name. To see the full range visit the website and click Gift Shop then Kass Mollie.



Our supporters create an amazing collection of beautifully crafted items including this cuddly Zebra. To see many more pieces visit the website and click Gift Shop then Nutty Knitters.

## Some of this year's Christmas treats...



Thanks to a very successful Christmas Card competition which brought many, many entries, we are able to offer two sets of Christmas cards this year. The cards are blank inside for your own message and are available in packs of 5 which come with envelopes in a cellophane pocket.

### Christmas Cards - Pack A



### Christmas Cards - Pack B



This year we are making our Goldie Pin-ups Calendar available in two versions for you to keep or give as gifts. Both feature a different gorgeous Goldie picture in each month.

There is a smart desk calendar the size of a CD, as well as the traditional A4 Wall Hanger.



To see more gift items visit the website and click Gift Shop.