



# A seasonal word from your Trustees...

**W**e - Aileen, Belinda, Nicky and Lynne - would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

★ 2014 has been one of the busiest years to date for IRR, with 125 dogs being rehomed to the end of October. This year has brought many changes, but the spirit of IRR continues with our fabulous team of fosterers, homecheckers, transporters, fundraisers, adopters and supporters. Thank you to everyone, without you IRR would not be able to continue saving the lives of so many dogs.

★ Our costs have increased enormously with the new DEFRA rules which mean dogs need rabies vaccinations and to be kennelled for 3 weeks before they have all the necessary paperwork to enable them to travel to the UK. Thanks to our great Fundraising Team, headed by Chrissie, we have managed to cover all our costs so far.

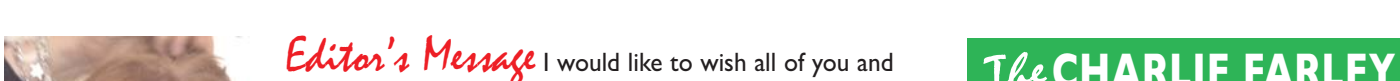
★ The Reunion was a great success this year, thanks to Yvette and Tim who spent an enormous amount of time and effort making sure everything went smoothly. It was voted a great success and a very memorable Reunion by everyone.

★ Kathryn, our Ireland Coordinator, as well as running a full time job, has worked tirelessly saving all the dogs from Ireland. Thank you Kathryn for everything you do.

★ There are many, many more people who need to be thanked - too numerous to fit on this page - without these wonderful helpers and supporters it would not be possible for IRR to function.

★ And if all the dogs could have their say, we know that it is they who would be saying the biggest Thank You of all.

★ Here's to an even more successful 2015!



**Editor's Message** I would like to wish all of you and your dogs a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year. It's not too late to pick up a last minute pressie from our Gift Shop and we've chosen a few below. A Sponsor Dog for just £10 makes a lovely stocking filler, as does a Key Ring or a Notebook from IRR. Hope you all have a lovely time! Below is a poem to remind us all why we help IRR.

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: [irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk](mailto:irnewsletter@vanessastollery.co.uk)

## A CHRISTMAS STRAY



*It's Christmas and here I am under a tree  
But there is a place I'd much rather be  
Cosy and warm in a new owner's arms  
Safe and sound from the World and it's harms  
I can see through your window - it's lovely and warm  
But out here I'm wishing I'd never been born  
If I could have just one wish on a star  
I'd wish that I need not travel so far  
To search in the night for a welcoming home  
When instead I lie here all on my own  
Cold, tired and hungry, and all alone  
Without any food or a nice tasty bone  
Is there no one who wants me? I'll be really good -  
And love you and heed you as all good dogs should  
I don't understand what I did that was wrong  
Cast out on my own on the road that is long  
To wander alone till my paws are so raw  
Where my hunger and thirst constantly gnaw  
I loved them so much but they chased me away  
They loved me once too but it changed on that day  
Can I not come inside and share in your love  
Just for a while till I'm called by Above?  
All I want is a home and a family to share  
In my happy affection and ban my despair  
Please - open your door, your arms and your heart  
I will love you forever till death us do part.  
It's Christmas and here I lie under a tree  
But there is a better place if you adopt me....*

*vanessa*

**Post Script** Can we please congratulate Leanne Wallace and Bracken for achieving a pass in Beginners Bronze Grade 1, Man's Best Friend Scheme - he's only been doing it for 8 weeks and passed first time! Well done Bracken!



Paws for a Walk is a series of annual sponsored walks which help raise the funds we desperately need to enable us to continue saving golden lives



**Paws Walk, 15th October, Dorset**

The group were undaunted by the weather and we did the whole 3.25 miles in damp conditions. It chucked it down about 15 minutes before the end so we got a good soaking but had towels at the ready....along with tea organised by Lynda Burgess and Vanessa Stollery. Certificates were handed out (with gravy bones provided by Ness). £125 was raised, plus change in the pot from cookie purchases and donations. The participants: Oonagh Eveleigh & Darragh (GR) Anne Gardner & IRR Bailey (GR) David & Lynda Burgess & IRR Molly (GR) Sarah Garnett & Ida (Toller) Gabrielle Selson & Piper (Cocker) Marilyn Waggott & Fergie & Yorkie (JRxBT) Amanda Bewlay-Robinson & Digby (Toller). Also Maggie Hilton, Belinda & Terry McAvoy & Vanessa Stollery.



**Paws Walk, October, Suffolk**

The Suffolk Paws Walk was held in October near Snape, and once the rain had cleared it turned into a glorious, sunny day! Although we were low in numbers we managed to raise close on £200, of which £185 was raised in sponsorship by Charlie Stollery. The picnic afterwards completed a lovely day, and we will be organising another Walk soon.



**Paws Walk, Team Tockholes, November, Lancs**

Team Tockhole, organised by Paula Hughes, was very well supported by friends, former dogs and fosterers, Paula, and neighbours. Everyone enjoyed the walk, especially the swim, and raised just over £400. Well done all of you who took part.



**Paws Walk, Hengtisbury Head, October, Dorset**

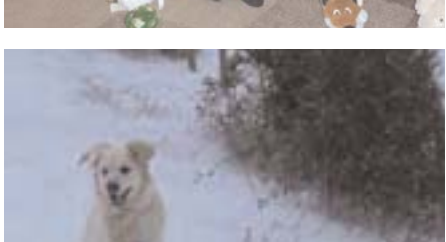
Saturday 25th October provided bright and breezy conditions at Hengtisbury Head as about 20 IRR adopters, fosterers, volunteers and supporters and their dogs descended on the beach for a PAVS fundraising walk.

10+ Golden Retrievers were joined by Collies, Westies, Springer Spaniels, a Duck Tolling Retriever, a Vizsla and others in the walk down the beach to the waterfront - bringing and leaving with joy. At the end of the race refreshments were taken at the café and we raised £121 on the day!



**Paws Walk, Timsbury, Bath, October, Somerset**

Gizzies Guys & Gals Paws Walk in Somerset held 2 walks - one in August and one in October. They gathered at Timsbury nr Bath, and the weather held for both days; Dogs who took part - IRR dogs: Gizmo, George, Freddie & Rhani Jefferey and our foster dog at the time, Luca, Penny & Dazzle James, Lola, Jones, Abi, Cassie, Connie, Ellie, Millie, Stella & Vinnie McAvoy, Delphi & Digby Reader-Hoer, Lizzie & Louis Phillips, Ossie Waygood, Jack Grant and Ellie Dagger  
Non IRR dogs: Connie Dagger, Skipper & Saffie Grant, Amber, Fritz & Summer



## The CHARLIE FARLEY Five Minute Interview



Getting to know our IRR dogs! No2: **MAX EMILLION**

**CFS** Hello Max, you are an IRR dog - Where are you from?

**MAX** When I was very young I lived on the streets in Cavan. It was really frightening. I'd been badly injured and had a few broken bones to mend. I was found by a Rescue who gave me to IRR

**CFS** Where do you live now?

**MAX** I came to England in January 2012. My foster family took me to a vet for injections and the next thing I know I'm out cold and woke up six hours later with a very expensive bionic leg and I was famous. I'd also had a broken jaw and a broken nose, but they had healed up.

**CFS** I understand you are famous and appeared in a film?

**MAX** Chrissie Heath, the famous IRR film mogul made an epic film about my life story and it was an IRR box office sensation. Supporters poured money in to pay the vet bill and mum said sometimes she couldn't get through the front door for all the gifts people sent to help me to survive my 10 weeks post-op cage rest. After 10 weeks I was able to leave the cage but had to do loads of exercises for another 6 weeks. I was knackered.

**CFS** My word Max, that's terrible - just to get in a film! How do you like your forever home?

**MAX** Coming here was the first time anyone had loved me so I asked if I could stay. The home-made sardine, garlic and Italian cheese biscuits played a small part in that, but mainly it was the love and warmth, and the soft bed.

**CFS** Do you have any brothers or sisters living with you?

**MAX** I have 4 brothers and a sister. Percy Piddlepot is the elder in our pack. He's firm but fair and we all respect him. Then there is Reuben 'Rubyfruit Crusher'. He can slice a kong in half and is mouth obsessed. He eats everything in his path. Archie Bobble is an epileptic and has funny turns so we have to look after him. My other brother 'Jack-the-Loon who bays at the moon' can tune into Archie and tells us all when an epileptic episode is going to happen. Then there is Lucy-the-boss, who is in charge of us all. I look after security in the pack and do all the perimeter patrols.

**CFS** What is important to you and what don't you like?

**MAX** The most important thing for me is my family. I don't like people or things that want to kill me or my family, like the colander, which has a nasty gleam in its eye, and the cold stream guard who came to my house once.

**CFS** A colander, you say? The sold cream guard was wearing a colander? Are you a Good Dog Max?

**MAX** I am a very good dog and I am talented in many ways. The naughtiest thing I've ever done wasn't my fault. Me and Jack and Reuben were talking and Reuben and Jack asked if I knew how to get inside a sofa. Well I did know because I'd already eaten two chairs and a sofa, so I showed them.

**CFS** Thank you Max for a very interesting interview - you have some 'colourful' siblings, especially that Reuben (will be staying away from him!) And who was that nice lady who sat in on your interview? Duchess of Cambridge you say.... how were those porky pies?

**CFS** Just one last question Max - what can you tell us about Harry's Bar?

**MAX** No comment

## "What We Like"



Kass Molle makes personalised fabric charms like this Christmas Stocking featuring your dog's name. To see more items for Christmas visit the IRR Facebook page.



Lesley Jones creates an amazing collection of beautifully crafted items including this cuddly Koala. To see many more pieces visit the IRR Facebook page.



Gizmo's Three Little Books "The first one is all my own pawems, Paw and Disorder is all the conversations with my mate Tigger and Paw and Order is full of stories about my doggy relatives and friends. I am telly they make cracking Christmas stocking fillers for dog loving hoomans". Visit the website and click Gift Shop then Gizmo's Books.



... and don't forget ... this year we are offering ten different IRR dedicated Christmas Cards and three kinds of calendars - the annual Sponsor Dog Calendar and our Golden Pin-ups Calendar in two sizes. Why not visit the Gift Shop today