



Castledon Chronicle

2014 Edition

Welcome to the 2014 edition of the Castledon Chronicle. Here's your chance to catch up with the news from your favourite greyhound homing charity.....

News from the Dog Duvet

On the homing front, we haven't been as busy as in other years but those dogs that have left us have gone to lovely homes. We still have some gorgeous dogs looking for their forever homes - please do have a look at their profiles on Page 4.

People-wise, we have had changes within the Board of Trustees - the people who ensure that the charity is run in accordance with Castledon's Aims and Objectives.

Andy Taylor stood down as Chairman and Trustee so that he could spend more time with his new granddaughter, the delightful Bethania.

It was through Andy's hard work and persistence that Castledon became a Registered Charity and the rest, as they say, is history! Without his support and hard work we certainly wouldn't be where we are today.

Although he's no longer involved as a Trustee, Andy continues to lend his support Castledon, something that we are very grateful for. Supporters will see no difference in the way Castledon's run but we're sure that you'll join us in thanking Andy for getting us to where we are today.

The Trustee vacancy has been filled by Dale Kirk, who has been involved with Castledon for many years. Onwards & Upwards.....!

Garden Party Success!

Early in the morning on Sunday 3rd August we tentatively drew back the curtains and were relieved to see that the sun was shining - something that we were nervously hoping for! Luckily, this was the day that we had chosen for our very first Garden Party and the sun continued to shine for the whole of the day!

It was a bit of a 'leap in the dark' for organisers Jodie, Andrea & Dale who hadn't done anything like this before and were concerned that it could be a bit of a disaster! However, they needn't have worried - Castledon Supporters came from far and wide to enjoy a lovely afternoon tucking into our buffet and BBQ and enjoying the company of fellow greyhound lovers.

Carly's Paw Parlour had a seemingly never ending queue and our free-running gallop was immensely popular, especially with Chris taking 'action shot' photos of the hounds!

A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported us - thanks to your generosity we raised over **£1700** !



Correction !



In our previous edition of the Chronicle we reported that Jess our 'adopted' cat from Overdale, had found a lovely new home. We said that thanks to Remus Horse Sanctuary, she was settling into a home environment.

However, we have since been informed that SHE is actually a HE!

Good job that we're not a cat rescue, eh?!





2014 has been a very sad year for us as far too many Castledon hounds have left for the bridge. Our hearts go out to those of you who have lost your beloved pets.

Joe - Elaine & Paul
 Isis - Nick, Tricia & family
 Beau - Elaine
 Jack - Kevin & Richard
 Squeak - Maureen, Paul & family
 Rusta - Tony, Judy & family
 Slippy - Dean, Claire & Freddie
 Pinto - Tim, Cheryl, Harry & Grace
 Bella - Denise & Graeme
 Jenny - Martin, Annette & family

Lady - Jan & David
 Misty - Babs & Paul
 Pauly - Sarah & family
 Beauty - Pat
 Vi - Deana & Kevin
 Tio - Jill, Sylvia & Trevor
 Wilma - Gary, Chris & Ryan
 Benny - Norman & Anita
 Suzie - Alison & Barry
 Ace - Jodie



**A Tribute to Benny
 by Norman and Anita Dear**



“What a boy - Benny came into our lives in early 2009. He was our first dog and has been the most loving & trusting dog we could have ever asked for - quiet, gentle, great with everyone he met, especially children and especially our grandchildren who loved him as much as we did. He took his time to settle in properly - he was terrified of the Hoover and very curious about the TV but once he had decided that the 2 seater settee was his and only his, he never wanted to be anywhere else. Once we were brave enough to let him off his lead it was pure pleasure to see him being a real greyhound - boy could he run! But he was soon curled up asleep once we got home.

We will be forever grateful to Jodie & Sandra for introducing us to Benny -he was the perfect fit, & all at Castledon have been brilliant with him & us whenever we needed them”



Saying the final goodbye to our beloved pets is something that we all dread and whilst our pets are young and healthy it's something we don't give a second thought to. However, when the sad time to say goodbye does eventually arrive there are difficult decisions that need to be made. For example, if you have to have your dog put to sleep would you prefer that your vet came to your home, if possible? Would you rather make the arrangements yourself for dealing with your dogs' cremation or burial or are you happy for your vet to do it on your behalf? During such a stressful time, it's sometimes hard to think straight so it's a good idea to have it clear in your mind as to what your wishes are. As difficult as it may seem, being able to make these decisions with some clarity well before the sad day arrives can actively decrease the anxiety and stress of both yourself and your pet. It may be worth having a chat with your vet sometime to find out what your options are. Do some research into the choices that are available regarding cremation or burial so that you can make a balanced, informed decision for when the sad day comes. Write down your choices or decisions along with any relevant contact details such as vets' emergency numbers or pet crematoriums etc. Keep this somewhere safe so that you can refer to it when you need to. Having this knowledge will help you cope at a very difficult time.

Remember it's quality not quantity that counts - love is not about about how many days, months or years you've been together. Love is about how much you love each other every day



Holidays with Hounds.....!



As Christmas is fast approaching, the holiday season seems a long way off but now is an ideal time to be looking at booking a 'dog friendly' break.

Holidaying with dogs has come a long way since the days when dogs were merely tolerated. Although not all accommodation is pet friendly, there seem to be more and more properties that positively welcome you and your furry friends.

Choosing Your Accommodation

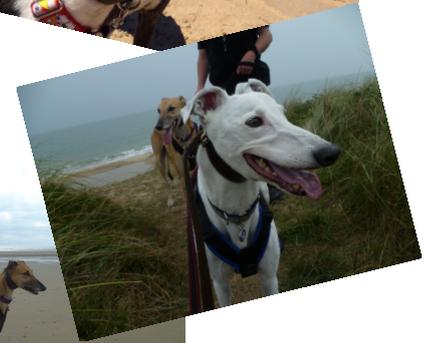
Once you've decided where you'd like to go, you need to make a list of what's important to you.

For example:

- How many bedrooms do you need?
- Do you need off street parking?
- Do you need to be near a local shop/pub?
- Would you rather a rural or town location?

There may be other criteria that are important to you, so do bear these in mind when searching.

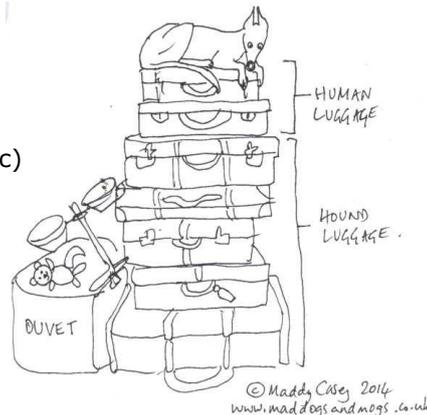
There are many companies that you can book dog-friendly accommodation through (such as Hoseasons, Welcome Cottages) but do check carefully when booking through these as they often charge an extortionate amount extra for each dog.



Things to take:

(for the dogs!)

- First aid kit
- Coats
- Towels
- Throws (to cover furniture etc)
- Any regular Medication
- Poo bags
- Tick pick
- Spare collar & Lead
- Holiday tag (with mobile no)
- Food & bowls
- Beds



Information to take with you

- Nearest vet - it's a good idea to register as a holiday client before you leave home
- Nearest dog friendly pubs
- Nearest dog friendly beaches
- Nearest dog friendly visitor attractions

Tried and Tested Holiday Homes

One of the best ways of finding good holiday accommodation is through personal recommendation.

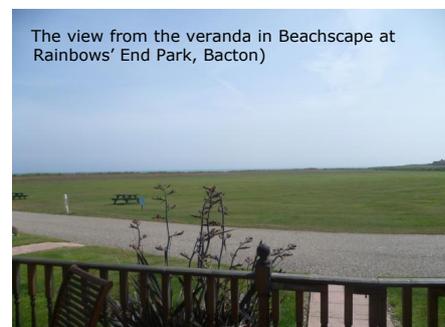
Some of the properties that we and other Castledon Supporters have used and enjoyed are:

- Grove Cottages, Suffolk (www.grove-cottages.co.uk)
- Waterside Park, Corton, Suffolk (www.holidaylettings.co.uk)
- Rainbows' End Holiday Park, Bacton, Norfolk (book through www.norfolkcostalholidays.co.uk)
- The Retreat, Winterton on sea, Norfolk (book through www.holidaylettings.co.uk)
- Treworrey, Looe, Cornwall (www.cornishdreamcottages.co.uk)

Useful websites that search for dog-friendly holidays for you:

- www.petholidayfinder.co.uk
- www.dogfriendly.co.uk

The view from the veranda in Beachscape at Rainbows' End Park, Bacton)



Top Travel Tip!

If you're going to an area that you haven't visited before, check out the area on Google Earth.....





Kennel Corner

We are very happy to report that Jack, Louis, Dinky and Laddie who were featured in the last edition of the Chronicle have all found loving homes.

This edition, we are featuring 5 of our lovely dogs who are hoping that they find their forever sofas very soon.....



**Charming
Chalky**



**Gorgeous
Ginny**



**Super
Seamus**



**Adorable
Angel**



**Marvellous
Magic**



Happily Homed

Lovely Lily Makes Herself at Home - By Babs Hunt

In August this year after an introduction at the Castledon Garden Party, the lovely Lily came to join our family after we had lost our beloved Misty to lung cancer in July. She is the youngest greyhound that we have adopted, being just 2 years old. She settled in quite quickly and Diver took to her straight away but he had to put her in her place and let her know who was boss! Unfortunately, a few weeks after we brought her home I had an accident, fracturing my shoulder & spine and had a serious leg injury. I was confined to bed for three weeks followed by another 4 weeks of having the dressings changed on my leg on a daily basis, so poor Lily's routine was thrown out which was confusing for her. Now that I am recovering, she is a different dog - she cuddles up to Paul and I and is very loving and affectionate. She adores Diver and snuggles up to him on the sofa. Lily is the 6th hound that we have had from Castledon (including one foster, Missy) Jodie knows which hounds will suit which people and she has got it right every time with us. We will always be grateful to her for introducing our lovely hounds to us and we will never forget Max, Thomas & Misty who are now at Rainbow Bridge, they have left paw prints on our hearts forever.



Jack's Pack! Kennel favourite Jack finally finds his Forever Sofa

You may remember seeing Jack on the 'Special Appeal' page of the last Castledon Chronicle. Having seen his friends come and go, poor Jack wondered if he would ever follow in their paw steps and find a home of his own. It's said that everyone's destiny is mapped out and fate certainly played a big part in Jack finding his new home.....



Due to the early starts of the Greyhound Walks it's rather difficult for Castledon to get to many of them due to the early starts which clash with the kennel routine. However, on this occasion Jodie managed to get away and took Jack with her to the walk at Frinton.

As fate would have it, Joanne and Graham also came along to the walk and as they were 'dogless', they offered to walk Jack.

They all bonded and it was arranged for Jack to have a few 'sleep-overs' to make sure that it was indeed a match made in heaven.

Jack melted both Joanne and Graham's hearts and the sleep-overs became permanent.

Joanne says: " When we first met Jack both myself and Graham fell in love with his beautiful brown eyes and lovely nature.

He has now been with us since 5th January and settled into home life really well. He has taken everything in his stride - including the Hoover and washing machine.

He is so laid back and acts as if he has been with us forever.

He often comes to work with me and is spoilt rotten by both the customers and other members of staff "

Jack, Joanne and Graham can often be found on road trips in their VW camper van 



Had it not been for Jodie taking Jack going along to the Frinton Greyhound Walk, fate wouldn't have stepped in and Jack wouldn't have met his lovely new family!

What's meant to be will always find a way.....





Hound Health

Paws For Thought....

Dogs pads cushion and protect the bones and joints from shock, provide insulation from extreme weather and help protect tissue deep within the paw.

Having less body fat than other breeds of dogs, greyhounds also have a thinner layer of fat cushioning their pads which could be a factor in them developing those darn corns!

As our dogs' paws take a lot of wear and tear, it's important that we look after them.

Here are a few tips for tip top tootsies:

- After each walk, check the pads/paws for any foreign bodies such as grit, glass or grass seeds
- When the pavements/roads have been treated with salt, make sure that you rinse your dogs' pads after walking
- Keep the pads supple by occasionally moisturising them with Vaseline or Sudocreme
- Keep an eye out for corns - they are often very difficult to see, but if your dog has an unexplained limp, examine the pads very closely. A corn can start off looking like a very small dot.

A good product that we've found useful is Musher's Secret. It's a paw wax that was initially invented by dog sledgers in Canada to protect their dogs' pads from the snow, ice and rough terrain.

Using this once a week is a good way of keeping your dogs' pads protected, throughout the year.

Although it's a Canadian product, it can be purchased via Amazon



Alternative Aid Corn Treatment



For those of you whose hounds are unfortunate enough suffer from corns on their pads, we have found a great new treatment.

Lori Rose, a homeopathic practitioner, has created a treatment that involves rubbing a specially formulated oil into the affected area 3 times a day, along with giving a small tablet once a day for a week, followed by one once weekly. The course lasts 6 weeks, by which time most corns have either disappeared completely or shrunk considerably!

Hounds the world over have used it with great success (including the Editors' own dog, Polo!) It costs £50 for the course - a very reasonable price when you consider what you could be paying for other less effective treatments!

If you would like more info, please check out Lori's website: www.lorirosehomeopathy.com



Carly's Paw Parlour

Carly has had many years experience in working with greyhounds and offers a very good, value for money service

Although the Paw Parlour is situated next to the kennels, we must make it clear that it is not connected in any way to Castledon Greyhound Rescue.

It is a business venture run by Carly.

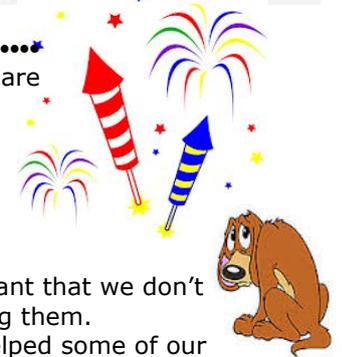
If you would like any details of the services that Carly provides or to book an appointment, please contact her directly on: 07737 084269

Fireworks Fear.....

Love 'em or hate 'em, fireworks are a part of the British way of life. Most dogs don't like them, with varying degrees of distress. Until the Government ban them, we have to learn to manage and minimise our dogs' fear.

Although it's difficult, it's important that we don't reinforce their fear by comforting them. Here are a few tips that have helped some of our supporters' hounds:

- Feed & exercise your dog before it gets dark, adding extra carbohydrates to their meal (such as pasta)
- Build a covered indoor den for your dog to hide in
- A couple of drops of Rescue Remedy or Dr Petals 'Fears' formula on their tongue
- Zylkene tablets (available without prescription)
- If all else fails, consider taking a road trip to a secluded firework-free area



Save £'s on your dogs' Prescriptions!

If you have to get prescription medicine for your dog, purchasing it from your vet isn't necessarily the cheapest option. Did you know that you now legally have the option of getting your vet to write you a prescription so that you can purchase the medicines from one of the many 'online' Veterinary Pharmacies?

Although your vet may charge you for providing the prescription, the fact that these pharmacies are generally much cheaper than the vets' which could make it a price worth paying.

If the medicine for your dog is needed immediately and is just a 'one off' it's probably best to purchase it from your vet. BUT, if medication is for an on-going problem, the chances are that you could save yourself a great deal of cash by using an online pharmacy! There are many to choose from, including:

- Vet UK
- PetMeds
- Petdrugs online
- Vetmedsdirect





Fabulous Fundraisers!



Walk Raises £'s for Our Hounds!

Sunday 18th May saw a group of Castledon Supporters and their hounds gather at Barleylands Farm, Billericay for the annual Barleylands Sponsored Walk.

After a nice amble around the grounds, we settled in the shade under the trees to enjoy a picnic.

Thanks to everyone's efforts in getting sponsored and with the addition of the Bonus Pot payout, we raised an amazing **£1137 !** - Not a bad amount for doing something that we all do with our dogs each day, eh?!

The date for next years' event has been confirmed as **Sunday 20th July** and it would be fantastic if as many of you as possible could join us.

Keep an eye on our forum or facebook page for more details nearer the time.....

Curry Night

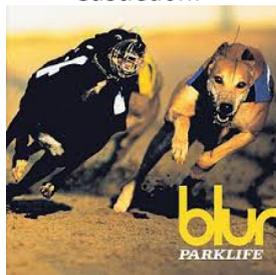
We Are Family . . .

It is said that every racing greyhound can trace its' lineage back to one dog - **King Cobb**, who was whelped in England in 1839.....



Interesting Castledon Fact.....

The fawn dog on the cover of Blur's iconic Parklife album is **Prince**, who was homed by Castledon!



Interesting Greyhound Fact.....



Bart's dog, Santa's Little Helper appeared in the very first Simpsons full-length episode.

Bart and Homer bet all of their money on him at the races but he came last.

His trainer kicked him out and Bart & Homer took him home as a pet

Sounds familiar, huh?!



....very much to Babs Hunt who has been a very busy bee making all of our lovely Christmas cards this year.

And thank you to Reggie, Tink, Max & Misty who all starred in them!