



Castledon Chronicle



Christmas 2015

Welcome to our latest edition of the Castledon Chronicle.

We hope that you, your families and your hounds are all keeping well and have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

Please sit back and enjoy reading all about what's going on at Castledon!

Garden Party Goes West!



After the success of last years' Garden Party we thought that it would be a tough act to follow. However, Andy & Jan Taylor took on the challenge and opened their garden in Hertfordshire to Castledon supporters and their hounds.

We needn't have worried - the day was a resounding success with everyone who attended saying what a fantastic time they'd had!

Thanks to Andy, Jan and their team of intrepid volunteers (Babs & Paul, Dave & Nikki and Rose & Tony in particular) over £700 was raised for the Castledon hounds!

Many, many thanks to all those who attended and helped to make it such a successful day.

Extra BIG thanks to Andy, Jan, Lacey & Duke for opening their home and making everyone so welcome.



Christmas Card Heroes!

Once again, Babs & Paul (owned by Lily & Diver) have come up trumps by producing and printing Castledon's lovely Christmas cards.

This years' cards feature the lovely Chalky, Champ and Maisy in festive poses.

Thank you so much Babs & Paul for donating their time and materials in producing such lovely, personal cards for us



'Timmy'

August 2004 ~ May 2015

You may remember reading all about Timmy's fight for survival in last years' Chronicle. Very sadly Timmy lost his battle to cancer in May this year - exactly one year to the day that he came home from The Animal Health Trust. Timmy was an inspiration to us all - despite how bad things got & how the odds were stacked against him, he never gave up.

Timmy will never be forgotten & will be forever in our hearts'
Jodie xx

Heather's Colour Run



We were delighted to hear that Heather Shann, Mum to Castledon hound Maisy, was donating her sponsor money from the Brighton Colour Run to Castledon. The Colour Run took place on the 10th October, with the runners completing a 5km course.

The competitors start the course in a white t-shirt and every kilometre they get showered in 'colour throws', making it a fun, eye-catching spectacle!

Thanks to her hard work and the generosity of those who sponsored her, Heather raised a fantastic **£175 !**

Thank you Heather and well done!

50fifty

50:Fifty Club

50fifty

Goes from Strength to Strength!

Castledon's 50:Fifty Club started way back in May 2012 as a fun way of raising funds for Castledon and at the same time giving its' members the chance of winning a cash prize each month.

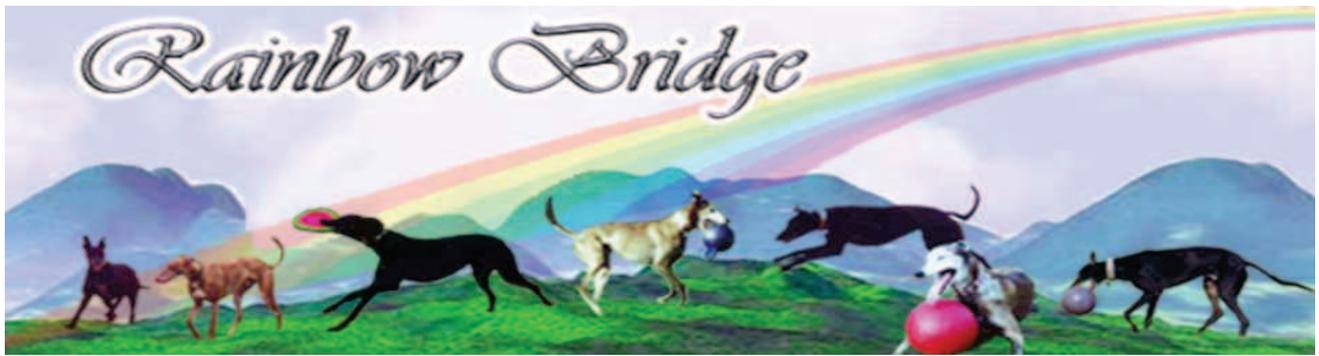
From humble beginnings with just 17 members and a prize pot of £48.50, our current membership stands at over 50 with a monthly prize pot of **£157.50!**

Infact, since it started the 50:Fifty Club has raised over £6000 for Castledon and paid out the same amount in prizes to its' lucky members!

We never imagined that it would be so successful!

If you'd like join in the fun of the 'lottery with a conscience' and become a 50:Fifty Club member, we've put an application form at the back of the Chronicle for you.

Thank you to all our lovely 50:Fifty Clubbers - your support really has helped keep Castledon going!



Our thoughts go out to those of you that have lost your beloved pets. We know that they will all be sorely missed and we at Castledon thank you for taking them into your hearts and homes

Harley - Valerie Perry
 Ella - Eve & Sean
 Tommy - Stella Weymouth
 Polo & Elsa - Dale & Andrea Kirk
 Prince - Frank & Connie Hovey
 Erin - Doreen Mason
 Roxy - Samantha & family
 Timmy - Carly Adams

Gemma - Graham Munting
 Murphy - Nicole, Brian & Connor
 Sassi - Dave & Doreen
 Reg - Debbie & Lee Percival
 Alfie - Sue, Andrew & family
 Twinkle - Laura, Damon & Family
 Dolly - Sally Winter
 Teal'c - Lynda Whitbread

Although all of our dogs at Castledon are special to us, 2015 saw the loss of two very precious dogs - Timmy & Polo. Both of these lovely boys were long-termers at Castledon who were lucky enough to find their forever homes
 Here, Polo's owner Andrea gives a tribute to this amazing boy.....



"It seems a lifetime ago that I was writing Polo's 'Happily Homed' for the last edition of the Chronicle but it was only a year ago. This amazing boy joined our family in September 2013 aged 7, having spent most of his life at Castledon due to his extremely nervous nature. Jodie felt that he really needed to get out of the kennels and asked us if we would consider taking him on. If Jodie thought it would work, that was good enough for us! We took a 'hands off' approach with Polo - we let him settle at his own pace and in his own time. It certainly paid off - although it took a while for him to settle completely we were rewarded with the most fantastic, funny, gentle, loving dog in the world. Amongst other things, he joined us on holiday, came on road trips, ate ice cream, acted as our own personal guard dog and became a great friend and playmate to our other hound, Elsa. Life was brilliant - we felt sure that Polo would be with us for a good few years to come. However, one weekend in June this year all of that changed. Polo started limping really badly whilst out on a walk. As we examined his pads for a foreign body and found nothing, we got that sinking feeling as we had experienced this with our first hound, Nikki. Our worst fears were confirmed the next day at the vets' - Polo had bone cancer. As Polo was such a brave, stoic boy who never complained we had no idea how much pain he must have been in. The disease was well advanced and the pain had just got too much for him. Devastated though we were, we tried to carry on as normal and give him the best of everything in the time that he had left. Sadly, it was only 2 weeks from when he first started limping to when we had to let him go. He was far too special for us to let him suffer a moment longer than necessary. We are so grateful to Jodie that she entrusted this precious boy to us - he taught us so much in the short time that he spent with us. We miss him so much and our hearts still ache for him. Good night, sleep tight our dear friend Polo until we meet again xxx "



Polo
 22nd August 2005
 To
 8th July 2015
 Forever in our
 hearts





Magic Pulls a Home from the hat!



You may remember the Special Appeal to find Magic, Castledon's Sponsor dog, a home. We are delighted to be able to announce that since our last appeal, Magic has bagged himself a fantastic forever home!

He has gone to live with Eve & Sean and their menagerie that includes Castledon hounds Gucci, Lucky & Belle along with 4 horses, 2 sheep, 7 geese, 16 ducks, 17 hens, 3 cockerels, 2 tortoises and a pond full of fish!

Eve has very kindly put pen to paper to tell us the story of how they came to take Magic and his predecessors into their hearts and home.....

Over the past 23 years me and my partner Sean have opened our hearts to 9 Greyhounds - 7 of them being Castledon hounds.

We always try to give our home to the extra special hounds, one that has special needs or been returned to kennels after living in a home.

Daisy was our first Castledon hound and I saw her profile while doing a search on the Internet. She was advertised as being extremely nervous and needing an extra special home with a lot of patience.



I contacted Jodie and Sandra and after a home visit they were happy for us to give Daisy a home.

Daisy was very nervous at first but with lots of time, love and patience she settled into our home environment and became a very happy confident hound with us.

She felt very safe at home and loved to sunbathe in the garden. She loved going for a walk and every day would go for a 1 - 2 hour walk in the morning. In the summer when the mornings were light she would try to get me out at 4.30 in the morning walking!!

Daisy loved the other hounds that also came to join the family and loved her life. We all had many happy years together.

Alfie was the next hound to join the family and was welcomed by Daisy.

Alfie was a 16 month old hound and was advertised by Jodie as having special needs.

He came from a large litter of pups and the dogs all had brain damage. The bitches didn't seem to be affected, but all the boys were. We didn't know at the time that we would later be joined by 3 of the others from the litter over the coming years. Jodie also went on to give a home to Sparky a bitch from the litter after she was no longer wanted by the previous owner.

Alfie's brain damage was minimal at first and he only really had slight mobility problems but as he got older he started having seizures which caused more damage to his brain and his mobility got worse. He started getting more and more seizures and was put on so many different epilepsy drugs.

The seizures got more violent and closer together and we wondered how much more his little body could take. His seizures would follow a pattern of every 7 - 10 days and he would have 6 seizures one after another. One of his seizures was so violent that he put his head through the glass of our log burner. After this I decided to do my own research into epilepsy with particular attention to his diet. I cut out all tinned and dried food and decided to cook my own. We also cut out the dog treats. Alfie went 5 months without any seizures. We were also able to completely stop one of the epilepsy medications and reduce the other to a very low dose. My vet was very surprised by the improvements to his health. Alfie still had seizures but he would have 1 seizure every couple of months. I devoted my life to keeping Alfie well and he lived a happy life for 10 years. We were devastated when Alfie passed on and he will always have a special place in my heart.



Floyd was Alfie's brother so also had mobility problems and he had very poor eye sight. He came to live with us 2 months after Alfie arrived. He settled in well and was very happy. Floyd also started having seizures later in life but he did not have as many as Alfie.

Floyd loved the cooked dinners and was always hanging about the kitchen watching what was being cooked that day! He loved his life and was such a happy hound. He also lived to his 10th year.



The next hound to join our family was **Gucci**, she was returned to Jodie with her brother Dave after their owner decided she didn't want them anymore after a change in circumstances.

Dave was very quickly homed into another family which left Gucci needing a home. We decided we would give Gucci the home she deserves.

She fell in love with Alfie and would sleep on his bed with him! Gucci loves to mother the hounds and gives an excellent ear and foot wash!

She would sit for ages washing Alfie. She wasn't that keen on Belle our West Highland Terrier at first, but over the years they have become good friends. Gucci is now a little old lady but thankfully still going strong. She is such a little darling.

Next to arrive was **Lucky**. He had a very successful racing career until it was ended by a broken leg. Lucky was sold and then spent the next few years being used for breeding. One day his stupid idiot owner decided to let him have another run round the track and he broke his leg again. They put him in the back of a van and were going to take him to the vet to be put to sleep. Jodie and Sandra happened to be nearby at the time so saved his life. They invested so much time and money into him to fix his leg. He now has a metal joint in his leg. When he was all better he needed a home. They also wanted him to be homed quickly as they said he was the friendliest hound they had ever come across. He laps up affection from anyone and everyone. So many people considered having him but were worried that he might have on going problems with his leg which put them off. We was more concerned about him getting on with our westie Belle. We took Belle to meet Lucky and they got on straight away. Sean calls them Bonnie and Clyde as they are always up front causing mischief! Lucky is a wonderful hound but is very easily lead by Belle. He copies everything she does!



Ella is Alfie and Floyd's sister and spent the first 10 years of her life in a home with her brother, Dudley. Dudley passed away at quite a young age due to cancer, with left Ella without her Brother who she had lived with all her life. Unfortunately for Ella she was never really loved, or loved like she should of been. Jodie would see Ella when she came into the kennels while the couple would go on holiday. This was the only time through that period of her life that Ella was really loved. Jodie regretted placing her with the couple, as they never appreciated what a lovely, very special girl Ella was. She wasn't given the time, care & love that she deserved.

Fortunately for Ella and us she was returned to Jodie when the Husband died suddenly. Ella was 12 years old at this point.

Jodie then wanted a very special home for Ella but was also considering keeping Ella herself. A nice couple offered to take Ella if she could not find her a home but they were going on holiday so they couldn't take Ella straight away.

Jodie texted me and told me about Ella and her previous life - Jodie knew how special Ella's Brothers, Alfie & Floyd, had been to me, and she knew no one could love Ella more than I would. Well as far as I was concerned I wanted Ella, in fact I needed her more than she needed me. Sean felt the same way as me, she needed to be with us.

She looked like our darling Alfie and she had the same birth mark on her tongue that our darling Floyd had. We knew she would not be with us forever but we wanted to give her the best life no matter how long or short it would be. We went to collect Ella, Jodie was so upset to see her go but she knew we would give her the best home. At first she didn't know what affection was but we smothered her with it and she soon learned! Gucci immediately took care of her and she would sit and wash her. It was like she knew she was Alfie's sister. We all loved her so much and she loved us.

We had 3 wonderful years with her.



After our darling little Ella died I contacted Jodie to let her know the sad news. I also asked Jodie to find us another hound to give a home to. Jodie said she didn't even have to think about who she wanted us to have.....she had a hound in mind and that she had always hoped we would take when the time was right. That hound was '**Magic**'. I knew straight away who he was as I had seen him so many times on the website. Magic was Castledon's sponsor dog and he had been in kennels for about 4 years. He had originally been taken to the vet to be put to sleep as he was too nervous to race. Luckily for Magic the vet phoned Jodie and Sandra and they saved Magic's life.

When Magic was offered to us we didn't have to think very hard about giving him a home. We had experience rehabilitating a nervous greyhound and were happy to take on the challenge again. We knew it would not be easy but knew we could make the difference to Magic's life.

We could give him the chance to live a happy life in a home environment - every greyhound deserves that. We also knew that Jodie and Sandra had every confidence in us. First, we took Gucci with us to meet Magic - he was very nervous of us when we met him, but he & Gucci were fine together in the paddock. He was then introduced to Lucky and Belle, which went very smoothly, too. When it came to Magic coming into the house for the first time, we let him find his way around the garden and house. Everything was so much for him to take in. We left his harness on him for the first visit to the house as we weren't able to touch him and needed to be able to catch him. The home environment was very overwhelming for Magic - it was a very gradual process, as he was frightened of everything, household appliances, noises of walking around the house, doors opening, noise of the neighbours.

He would go mad every time we walked up or down the stairs. Magic showed his fear by barking or hiding in the corner on his bed. In the first few weeks after he moved in, he barked a lot. Gradually he started to trust us. It took longer for him to trust Sean but it wasn't helped by Sean being away on business a lot over the first month. Sean would have to start all over again with Magic when he came back. Magic has been with us a few months now and you would not believe the difference in him. He is very chilled out in the home environment and is really beginning to enjoy life. Magic has a busy life and helps me every morning to get all the other animals ready for the day.

Magic loves his toys and likes to take things from around the house and put them on his bed. If I can't find something I always know where it is, on Magic's bed!!

Magic has come such a long way in such a short time and his confidence improves more and more every day. He hardly ever barks now - wish I could say the same for Belle!!!

He still has lots of challenges ahead but it goes to show that there is hope for every hound, and the right home is out there for them all.

Eve sums up perfectly the Castledon ethos that the right home is out there for every dog.....

Please meet Buddy, our new Sponsor Dog!

Since the lovely Magic has found himself a fantastic furever home, the position of Castledon's Sponsor Dog has become vacant.

We are delighted to be able to announce that the vacancy has been filled by Buddy

Here Jodie shares Buddy's story.....

Buddy & his friend Elba were rescued in September this year, where they had been kept in a kennel & small run down the bottom of someone's field for around 6 years - since they finished racing. They were not kept together, but next to each other in separate kennels & runs.

The only time they saw anyone during those 6 years was when they had their food put in their run each day. They were never walked, made a fuss of or even given the most basic of attention. They lived very sad, lonely lives. All because once they could no longer race, they were 'surplus to requirements' - something that is sadly all too familiar in the Greyhound racing world.

Someone who had been working at the property where they were being kept, alerted Castledon & Sighthound Stoppagap. Between us, we immediately offered them rescue space. Thankfully the 'owner' agreed to let us take them.



Neither of them had names, so we named them Buddy & Elba. Buddy appeared quite a bit older than Elba. They were both bald all over their backs & thighs from having fleas so badly, they had chewed all their hair off with the irritation. Buddy literally had pus seeping out of his ears - his ears were so badly infected & inflamed, that we couldn't even open them up to attempt to clean them or read his tattoo to find out who he was or how old he was, and his back legs were so weak where he had not had any exercise for such a long time. Buddy was taken to the vets straight away for his ears to be treated. Our vets was horrified when he saw the state of his ears. Our vet was concerned that the infection was so bad and had been left for such a long length of time, that it may be too late. All around Buddy's throat was full of fluid from the infection. He said if we couldn't clear up the infection, it would be kinder to put Buddy to

sleep because he would be in so much pain. We were given ear drops & antibiotics to start Buddy's treatment. Within a few days of treatment & regular cleaning of his ears we saw a lot of improvement - but the pus was still coming out of his ears & we still had a long way to go, but Buddy was feeling a bit more comfortable & wasn't shaking his head quite so much. He had also stopped walking with his head low down. So we knew he was more comfortable, which was the main thing. Many trips to & from the vets followed.



His ear treatment continued, but what I really wanted now was a foster home for Buddy - but a permanent one, where he could spend the rest of his days in comfort with all the love & affection he had missed out on all those years.

I found the perfect foster home for Buddy with Carole & her son, Mark.

They were happy to give Buddy a home for life, and to continue with his ear treatment. I was so pleased that I had managed to get Buddy into a home within 2 weeks of coming to Castledon - I really didn't want this lovely old boy wasting anymore of his precious time sitting in a kennel.

When Buddy had vet appointments, I would go & pick him up from his foster home & take him to the vets - he gave me such an amazing greeting! He knew we got him out of that horrible situation & was so grateful, bless him! The change in Buddy was so lovely to see - he's so happy & enjoying life :-)

When Buddy arrived at Castledon we estimated him to be around 12 years old. Once we were able to actually open up Buddy's ears & read his tattoos that's when we discovered he was actually 9 years old - almost 10.

We were shocked - the poor boy's body was more like a 12/13 year olds.

Elba who seemed a couple of years younger than Buddy, turned out to be 9 too.

Elba is also now happily living in a permanent foster home & enjoying the life he should of had a long time ago.

Buddy's ear treatment is ongoing, so we're hoping that we can keep his discomfort to a minimum

Both these boys are on permanent foster which means Castledon will cover their feeding & all veterinary treatment costs for the rest of their lives.



Since our previous Sponsor Dog, Magic now has a wonderful home we have given Buddy the honour of being Castledon's new Sponsor Dog.

If you would like to sponsor Buddy for £5 a month he would be eternally grateful - and so would we!

Please contact us to find out more - our contact details can be found at the bottom of the page.



Could you find it in your heart to be a fosterer?

Being a fosterer takes a very special person or family - it involves welcoming a dog into your home and helping them to learn about what being in a loving environment is all about. This helps them immensely when we find them their 'Forever' home. Castledon provides and pays for all the food and veterinary care for the foster dogs and we're always on hand to provide help and advice, if needed. We often have dogs who would benefit greatly from being fostered.

If you could help or would like to find out more about this very rewarding vocation, please do contact us!

Do contact us!



Telephone: 01268 733293

Email: jodie_adams@yahoo.co.uk

Postal address: 181 Castledon Road
Wickford, SS12 0EG



We've recently re-vamped our website, if you'd like to have a look:

www.castledongreyhoundrescue.co.uk



Why not pop over to our friendly forum to keep up with all the Castledon news?

Find us at:

www.castledongreyhounds.proboards.com

Castledon has its' own wish list if you'd like to buy the kennel dogs a present.....

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/registry/registry.html?ie=UTF8&id=496U3T69N5MH&type=wishlist>

Bit of a long address, but the dogs would be SO grateful!



Kennel Corner

We are delighted to be able to tell you that Chalky, Angel & Magic, who were all featured in the last edition of the Chronicle, have all found lovely homes 😊

Special Appeals !



Penny is a lovely girl who has had a lot of races & now deserves to relax & enjoy all the comforts of a home environment.

When Penny first came to Castledon she was quite timid of people she didn't know but she's quite a confident girl now! She's really grown in confidence.

She hates kennel life so would love to find a nice loving home as soon as possible. She loves her walks & is good on lead.

Penny can be a bit bossy with the other dogs but would happily live with a male dog who doesn't mind her being boss!

Penny is responding to all the TLC at Castledon, something which is quite new to her.

She will undoubtedly be a very loving, loyal girl for the lucky family that welcome her into their home



Poor Seamus was featured in our last Chronicle but there was sadly little interest in him, despite his handsome looks and friendly personality!

Seamus has been waiting sometime for a home to come along for him. He's a tall boy, with a laid back nature & excellent on the lead.

Seamus would suit a home either as an only dog or he would share a home with female dogs.

He really enjoys his walks & loves going out in the car

Seamus is a really lovely, easy going boy who will be very loyal to his new owner/family.



If you can offer a home to any of our featured dogs or would like to find out more about any of them, please do get in touch


**APPLICATION FORM FOR
Castledon's 50:Fifty CLUB**


Please complete this form and the standing order instruction below and return to: **50:Fifty Club, Castledon Greyhound Rescue, c/o 18 Colworth Close, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2SP**

Full Name:
 Full Postal Address:

Post Code:
 Telephone number:
 Email address:

Please allocate me 50:Fifty Club number(s) @ £1 per number, per month. I have completed and signed the bank standing order instruction below. Once we have received your instruction we will notify you of your numbers.

If you are a UK tax payer, please tick the box so that we can claim Gift Aid This means that for every £1 you give, we can reclaim an extra 25p from the taxman!

You must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or UK Capital Gains Tax in each tax year at least equal to the tax that Castledon Greyhound Rescue in addition to any other charities, reclaim on your donations

Signature.....Date.....

BANK STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION

Please PRINT your details clearly

To: (Your bank's name and full address)

.....

Your bank account number:

Your bank sort code:

Name of account holder:

Please pay £..... until further notice, on the fifth day of each month, commencing on the fifth day of (MM/YY) - *If today's date is the 10th of the month or after, please put next month as your commencement date. This is to enable your bank enough time to process your request*

Your signature:

.....Date.....

Your address:

.....

For Office use only:
 Please use reference.....

For the credit of: **Castledon Greyhound Rescue**
 Bank: **Nat West, Ealing Branch**
 1 The Mall, Ealing, London W5 2PL

Account no: **41804082**
 Sort code: **60 07 10**