



# Greyhound HOMER

Suffolk branch of the Retired Greyhound Trust  
RCN 269866

## Committee members

chair:  
Mark Stiff  
secretary:  
Dawn Stiff  
treasurer:  
Avril Park  
and everything else:  
Debbie Mullins  
John Mullins  
Sue Bruce  
Angie Upson  
Sara Viney

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## Contributions

Contributions, comments  
and suggestions are  
always welcome!

January 2016

# newsletter 19

finding forever homes for greyhounds

## Chair's Chat

The first thing I'd like to say is a big thank you to all who came along to the Boxing Day walk - what an amazing sight! I'm looking forward to a big New Year for us. We have some new walks set for the new year (one a month) with dates to come, then we will be straight into show season again, the All About Dogs show, Hadleigh show, Tendring show, Suffolk show, Colchester Food and Drink and others - all details will be available on our website.

Now for a quick round up of our achievements in 2015. First and most importantly, we found homes for 77 greyhounds. Since founding Greyhound Homer Suffolk as a separate branch of the Retired Greyhound Trust we have homed a total of 505 greyhounds (70 in 2014, 77 in 2013, 92 in 2012, 112 in 2011 and 77 in 2010).

We organised 12 walks with a total count of at least 650 greyhound attendances, starting off with a New Year's Day walk at Stutton with around 70 dogs, and finishing at Felixstowe on Boxing Day with 160. In between we walked at Needham Lakes, Mistley, Blaxhall, Hollesley, an evening walk at Dedham, a picnic after our walk at Stutton, Hadleigh, Grundisburgh and Ipswich. We look forward to seeing even more greyhounds on our walks in 2016.

We spent a total of 17 days promoting greyhounds as pets and fundraising at 12 shows at locations including Ipswich's Trinity Park for All About Dogs, the Suffolk Show and the Robin Hood show, Colchester's Castle Park for the Food and Drink show, Helmingham Hall for the Suffolk Dog Day, Newmarket for the Greyhound Extravaganza, the Henham Steam Rally and the Tendring and Hadleigh Shows.

There were also opportunities to socialise at our Spring Dance and two charity golf days fundraisers. Also, to raise much-needed funds our marvelous supporters have gone to extreme lengths such as throwing themselves out of airplanes.

Thank you all for your help in making 2015 a great year! Mark



## Message from my friend Will

I'm the dog who's first day out of kennels was the Boxing Day walk. I had so many people stroke me and ask who I was. I loved most of the fuss and cuddles even though I was a bit scared and nervous. I did enjoy my day, even at the start when I went for a walk on my own!!!! I went back to kennels, had my dinner and a big bowl of water and slept like a baby all night. I'm not quite ready for my own forever sofa yet, but I'm told that special day is not too far away. So thank you for your fuss and cuddles, keep thinking about me, and I hope to see you all again on a walk somewhere soon. Will xxx

[www.greyhoundhomer.org.uk](http://www.greyhoundhomer.org.uk)



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## Dates for your Diary

**Spring Dance**  
12th March  
Woodbridge Football Club

### Walks

**Woodbridge**  
11am, January 31st  
Swimming pool car  
park, IP12 4AU

**Tunstall**  
11am, 28th Feb  
Check website for  
details

### Shows

**All About Dogs**  
27-28th March  
Trinity Park

**Hadleigh Show**  
21st May  
Holbecks Park  
Hadleigh

**Greyhound  
Extravaganza**  
29th May  
Newmarket

**Suffolk Show**  
1-2nd June  
Trinity Park  
Ipswich

## Boxing Day Walk

A grand total of 160 dogs, 140 of them greyhounds, gathered for our fifth annual Boxing Day along Felixstowe prom. It was fantastic to see so many well behaved hounds and their owners, as usual we attracted a lot of attention and gathered many compliments about our lovely hounds.

Thanks to Dawn and Sally who between them made in excess of 300 delicious mince pies, to Heather and Rachel for making endless cups of tea and to the Wheeler family for allowing us to use their beach hut. I hope the hounds enjoyed their salmon cake treats!

Finally through donations and sales, we raised in excess of £500 - thanks to all for your generosity.



## Kennel update from John and Debbie at Dillymore

Happy New Year from all at Dillymore. We've had a shaky start to the year with a touch of kennel sickness, mostly amongst the race dogs, but hopefully onwards and upwards. Its time to brush away the winter cobwebs and look forward to the spring. Good luck to Kevin and Sally on their retirement and a warm welcome to our new committee.

A big thank you for all the kind donations, all our hounds had lots of tasty treats over Christmas.

Here's to a productive 2016 with several fundraising events to prepare for and hopefully loads of lovely new sofas out there for our special dogs waiting for their turn to find their forever homes.





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**Homeless Hounds**  
See website for  
details of all hounds  
needing homes



Porsche

Suzy



Ross

Claire



Grace

Bailey



Moody

## Meet the Committee

Since there have been quite a few changes to our committee, we thought we' would take some time to introduce ourselves. Many of you will already have met us on walks or at shows, and we look forward to meeting many more of you over the next year.



Hi my name is Mark and my main occupation is in the haulage business. I am married to Dawn and between us we have three beautiful Greyhounds. I have been a volunteer with Greyhound Homer Suffolk since March 2014. I started by helping at the shows, mainly cook and bottle washer for the rest of the team, but my love of the Greyhounds soon meant I was much more involved. By the end of 2014 I was invited onto the committee and since then have never looked back.

I'm Dawn and I adopted my first greyhound, Clarence, on Nov 18th 2013 and haven't looked back since!

I started volunteering helping out at walks and shows from early 2014, which lead to my greyhound family expanding to three with the addition of Connie and then Heart. I joined the committee of Greyhound Homer Suffolk in late 2014.

I worked full time at a manufacturing company until recently. Since that came to an end in October I have been lucky enough to spend a lot more time doing what I absolutely adore which is finding forever homes for these wonderful Greyhounds.



Avril: I have been a volunteer for around 3 years. I have always been a dog lover and my first job was as a kennel maid.

Since starting to volunteer I have taken numerous kennel dogs to our organised walks, meet and greets and shows. We have had a considerable amount of success with this approach and many of the dogs I have taken have been re-homed as a direct result.

My real passion and the thing I find most rewarding is spending time with those dogs that require a little extra help in preparing them for home life. Whether they are nervous and shy or at the other end of the scale prey-driven and

over-excited, I enjoy socialising them with other dogs and humans, and taking them to training classes or one to one training sessions. Nothing pleases me more than to see these extra special dogs happily settled in their forever homes.



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## How You Can Help

**Keep some of our cards handy for any interested people you meet.**

**We are always happy to give you some.**

**Tinned fish, meat or biscuits for the kennel dogs, they love a treat or a change.**

**Straight cut shredded paper (must be long strips over 6") used for bedding.**

**Duvets again for bedding and towels.**

**Raffle prizes for our fundraisers during the year.**

**Donations are always gratefully received, online or directly.**

**Support our events and walks and show the public how lovely our hounds are.**

**We're always open to your ideas to help fundraise and promote our hounds.**



Hello, I am Angie Upson and I have been volunteering for Greyhound Homer for a few months which has taken me to county shows, walks and meet and greets, and wow, what an impact these gorgeous dogs make wherever we go; it is great meeting people and talking greyhounds. The best bit of all is when they get their forever homes; they have so much love to give and after homing many different breeds of dog over many years, I am totally addicted to - yes - greyhounds. Myself and John (the other half) have got two greyhounds (brother and sister) called Alex and Troy aged five years. First we got Alex from Dillymore, then after losing our very elderly collie we homed Troy as it became clear that Alex was missing her companion. It has worked a treat; they love each other and every night wash each other and snuggle up on the duvets. I hope to continue doing what I can throughout this year - I'm definitely looking forward to the various shows and walks and promoting Greyhound Homer and its hard work finding homes for greyhounds.



I'm Sara, usually to be found behind the camera at walks and shows. I've also taken over maintenance of the Greyhound Homer website. To keep Dilly and Maggie greyhounds in the style they deserve, I work publishing international motorcycle trade magazines.

I have been a committee member since Greyhound Homer Suffolk was formed. However, I've been quite ill in recent years so haven't been able to dedicate nearly as much time to finding homes for greyhounds as I would like - hopefully 2016 is the year I'll be properly back on my feet.

## Meet the Committee

My name is Sue Bruce and I share my home with two much loved and very spoilt Greyhounds, nine year old Sophie and six year old Joe. It is a real pleasure to rejoin the Greyhound Homer team and I look forward to helping more of these beautiful and gentle dogs to find their forever homes.

