

LEAD ON



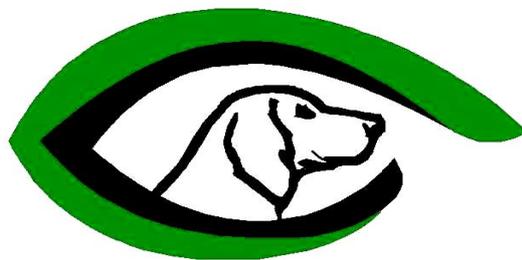
Magazine of
Seeing Dogs

A working name of The Seeing Dogs Alliance

*Training Dogs to Guide Blind and
Partially Sighted People*

Issue No 38 – Summer 2014

**Editors
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FROM THE EDITORS

Hello, and welcome to *Lead On* for summer 2014.



This edition has all the usual items. Chris has news about the winding up of the current charity and the setting up of the new one. This will give the trustees much more security. We keep the same name, but have a different charity number, as Chris explains in her report. There has been a great deal of work involved in transferring from one charity to another, and both Chris and Geoff have worked hard to make sure all goes as it should. Our thanks go to them for all their hard work.

The fundraising report makes very encouraging reading, and read about the latest pup, and new puppy rearer, in “dog news”.

As we remember the one hundredth anniversary of the First World War, and celebrate seventy years since the D-Day landings, it is appropriate that Neil Ewart has written a very interesting article about guide dogs that worked through the Second World War.

As ever, thank you to those who have sent us their used postage stamps. Keep them coming.

The closing date for items for the winter magazine will be Monday, 29 September.

Have a lovely summer.

Lindsey and Mike Pannell

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Welcome to my report for the summer issue of *Lead On*.

Most of my time this year has been spent on matters connected with our new charity, which was registered on 24 April. When the application form was sent by our solicitors, I thought the end date of the financial year, 31 December 2014, referred to our current charity. I was therefore surprised to discover that, even though the charity wasn't registered on 1 January 2014, this was the start of its first financial year. Indeed, the application hadn't even been submitted to the Charity Commission on that date.

The new number is 1156790, although we have been told not to use this number until we have transferred our assets from the old charity to the new one. I shall consult our solicitors as to the number which should appear on the first page of this issue of *Lead On*. I hope to have our assets transferred by the time *Lead On* is published, but things can go wrong. When they have been transferred, the trustees will have to pass a resolution to dissolve the old charity, and we can then apply to the Charity Commission to have the old charity removed from the Register of Charities. I can't wait for that time. However, everything seems to need a form to be completed, and I don't expect that process to be any different.

Provided the old charity is removed from the Register of Charities by 31 January 2015, which is when the Annual

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Return for its last financial year would be due, we shall not need to submit an Annual Return for that year. Therefore, we shan't need to hold an AGM. I had already booked an AGM for the afternoon of Saturday, 4 October, at RNIB, as we were unable to find a hotel with sufficient accommodation for the period we required, 8-13 September. We are hoping to use the afternoon of Saturday, 4 October, for a Special General Meeting for the new charity, as there are one or two small amendments required to the constitution, and we can only make such amendments by means of a written resolution signed by all members, or by a resolution passed by a vote of 75% of members present at a General Meeting. Not having to hold an AGM for the old charity will be very useful, as we still don't have a Treasurer. The first AGM for the new charity will probably take place in June or July 2015, and its first Annual Return will be due by 31 October 2015.

We placed an advert for a Treasurer on a website for volunteers set up by the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales. Adverts on this site are only allowed to remain there for three months, and our advert was removed on 22 April. We had one application, but when I expanded on requirements for the position which I had put on the above website, the applicant decided he did not want the position. I suspect he was not a dog lover. Anyone who becomes our Treasurer will need to be a trustee, and be comfortable around dogs, as our assistance dogs attend the Trustees' Meetings.

Geoff and I are also advertising for a Treasurer with the Woking Volunteer Centre. Despite having to fill in two forms, one to register with the organisation, and another to register a requirement for a Treasurer/trustee, we have had no response

yet. I don't know whether there is a limit on how long that advert can be live.

We also haven't found another editor for *Lead On*. As we told you last time, Lindsey and Mike are giving up this job after the winter 2014/15 issue.

I think all subscriptions and donations paid till we start using the new charity number should be counted as subscriptions and donations to the old charity. All existing trustees of the old charity are now trustees of the new charity, and are life members of it. All future trustees will also be life members of it. Although we're not operating under the new charity yet, it is a legal entity, as it is on the Register of Charities. Life membership for trustees is the only category of life membership, however. All ordinary membership subscriptions will now become due on 1 January each year. At the moment, the annual membership fee will still be £5. The trustees will be able to amend the fee from time to time, subject to the approval of the new fee of the subsequent AGM.

If you haven't yet paid your subscription for 2014, please pay it as soon as possible. If you have paid it by cheque, you should have received a receipt, so please don't send another subscription till 1 January 2015. You can send donations, however.

All existing trustees will be standing down and offering themselves for re-election at the first AGM of the new charity, apart from two who will be resigning with effect from 31 December 2014. If you wish to be a trustee, at present, you can contact me using any of the contact details on the front page of this issue. It would be very helpful if you have one of the skills we need, such as fundraising, financial, puppy walking or

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puppy rearing, professional knowledge about blindness, veterinary skills or legal skills. The existing trustees will have to decide how people wishing to be trustees of the new charity should apply.

I hope this will be my last report for the old charity.

Chris Parker

DOG NEWS

At last we have found another puppy rearer. Her name is Trina Curtis, she lives in Cliffe, near Rochester, and she has a black Labrador puppy, called Milo, who is about 16 weeks old. He was bred by Jane Jenkinson, of Eastleach, near Cirencester. I think Jane must be a Kennel Club Accredited Breeder, as she had her breeding stock checked for the relevant health problems. Jane and her daughter named Milo before we got him, and although we have a Seeing Dog called Mylo already, because there was a difference in the spelling of the name, I agreed that we would keep it. Jane said her daughter wanted Milo's name to be kept. She had probably become very attached to him, as I think he was one of the last puppies to go. Neil Ewart selected him.

Trina, Milo's temporary mum, will be putting some information about him in this issue. However, I can tell you that he has already ruined the glasses she uses for driving in the dark. The charity will give her some of the

cost towards another pair when she has decided how much she needs.

I think Barney is doing OK. He is vocal at times, which John thinks is because he was bred on a farm. He also doesn't like being left alone.

Zoe will be going to John for training shortly. John has been held up recently, due to being without his car, which has been in for repair.

We asked John to put an advert for puppy rearers in his local magazine, which is circulated every month. Trina was one of the people who replied, and the only person who was suitable.

Since writing the above, another person has applied to rear a puppy. She sounds as if she may be suitable. Like Trina, she has a pet dog. She lives in Hempstead, near Gillingham, so John's training classes will be very convenient for her.

Geoff also put an article about the charity in *Ripley and Send Matters*, our local magazine. However, we have not had any responses from that article. The magazine is circulated quarterly.



Kaiser, who was the second Seeing Dog to qualify, will be retiring as soon as we can find another home for him, as his owner, Andrew Samuels, can't keep him. Kaiser would be able to continue working for one

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or two more years, but Andrew's health is deteriorating. At the moment, I have two possible candidates for him, but haven't found anyone definite yet. If there is anyone out there who would be prepared to have a retired Seeing Dog, even if you don't have Kaiser, please let us know.

Chris Parker

BARNEY

by
JOHN GRAVE

Barney is settling well into his training role. Like most young dogs, he is still keen to learn, and loves to be out on the street working hard, but he can be easily distracted when he sees a dog playing in a park or having fun.

He is nearly fully grown and has put



on a few pounds, and looks in good condition. He loves free running and loves to use his nose when out in the fields. As he matures he is slowly taking on more responsibility for his work, which is of a nice standard for this stage of training.

Barney has been learning to walk in the centre of the pavement, and to stop and sit at kerbs. He can show good levels of patience, but he can also be easily distracted.

Like most dogs of this age (14 months), he is keen to push boundaries. He occasionally chews and doesn't like to be left alone, but generally he is a nice dog to have around the house, and is ready to put his head in the harness at a moment's notice. He likes to try and show our Jack Russell that he's the boss.....even though he isn't.

Barney is getting better with shiny floors, with only the occasional one catching him out. He has travelled on a train and behaved very well, but that might have been due to the 6 mile walk he had just completed.

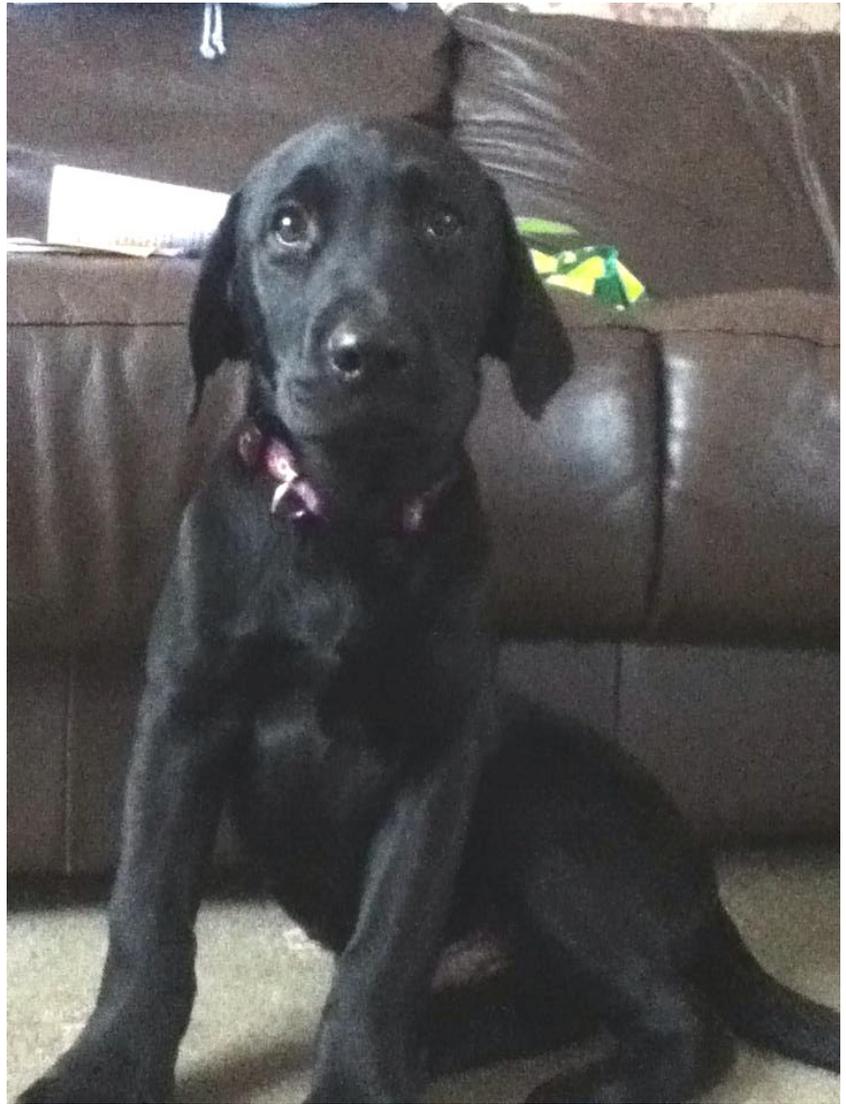
The next few months will see an increase in his workload, and this will slowly shape his behaviour even more. Barney has all the right ingredients to make a conscientious, willing Seeing Dog and just needs time to shine.

MILO

by
TRINA CURTIS

To date Milo has lived with me for just two weeks, so this update will, understandably, be a little brief.

Leaving his birth mother and two siblings behind, Milo travelled to Kent, to share my home with my colliexSaluki, three cats and teenage son, a little overwhelming for him I'm sure.



Initially, when John left Milo with us, he just sat very quietly and “took it all in”. But that night, he let me and everyone else in the neighbourhood know that he was homesick; boy, did he HOWL! - a big voice for a little chap.

He has settled in well and found his place in the house, and after initially chasing the cats for all he was worth, he now just watches them intently as they come and go (most of the time anyway)!!!!

As you can see, he is a handsome boy with a mischievous character, a typical pup, into everything, especially the things he shouldn't be into; he certainly keeps me on my toes.

He responds well to basic commands, and enjoys his outings.

We have a long way to go, and despite reading and rereading the Puppy Rearing Manual, sent by Chris, we have had, and will continue to have, I'm sure, little hiccups along the way. Maybe Milo could try reading the manual instead of chewing it.

WELL DONE, ZOE
by
PENNY STRATTON

The Kennel Club's "Bark and Read Foundation" helps children, and some adults, who are reluctant readers to develop an interest, or better still, a passion, for reading. The Foundation works in conjunction with charities such as Pets as Therapy. Reading to dogs has been proved to help children develop literacy skills and

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build confidence via the calming presence of a dog, together with the dog's non-judgemental attitude. Our pet flatcoated retriever, Alice, is a "Pets as Therapy" dog, and we routinely visit patients in a dementia unit. Last year, we were invited to take part in a "Reading to Dogs" trial at a local primary school. We now go there twice a week and listen to five or six children read individually. The children's enthusiasm and progress are quite amazing, and the trial has proved to be a great success with the children, teachers and parents alike. Alice loves it as well! Recently the special needs teacher invited Zoe to take part, instead of Alice, for one session.

Was this a good idea or not? Zoe wore her Seeing Dog puppy jacket, and off we went to school. She took a few minutes to adjust to the noise and hustle and bustle of endless children moving around the school. Once in our room, she settled really well and seemed to enjoy the different children coming in. One little boy, who has anxiety problems, came in crying because he had been told that Zoe was standing in for Alice. Oh dear! Thankfully, he quickly cheered up when he saw happy Zoe wagging. In no time he was reading us a story about frogs and aliens that we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Zoe did so well, and was **SO CALM** that she was invited to admire a special scrapbook that a Down's syndrome child had been making. He rarely speaks, but after silently watching Zoe looking at his picture scrapbook, he stroked her head and said "Good dog". His teaching assistant was overjoyed with this reaction, and said it was the highlight of her day.

Well done, Zoe!!!

FUNDRAISING NEWS



We have done well for funding from money we've received from the charitable trusts to which Company Solutions applied for funding for us. We have made a profit of £38,000 so far. To date we have received £50,000 and we had to give Company

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Solutions £12,000 for their fee and VAT. We also received £5,000 last year from The Mabel Harper Charitable Trust, which we asked Company Solutions not to include in the appeal to trusts, as they have been giving us money regularly for the last few years.

Darren Lambden, of Castle Cary, Somerset, who ran in the Bristol 10k Race for us on 11 May, raised a total of £540 in sponsorship and online donations. We are very grateful to Darren for his efforts.

Darren is a friend of Tina Groves' brother. Tina is on our waiting list for a Seeing Dog. We have also received recently a substantial donation from Tina's mother, Audrey Groves, who suggested that mourners attending her husband's funeral donated to Seeing Dogs. Audrey was very grateful when two friends gave her a wheelchair, as she now has a problem with her legs and is unable to walk.

We received a fairly substantial legacy a couple of months before the close of the last financial year of the old charity. This was from someone with whom I had had contact last summer, and who thought we were too small to bother with. His executor, however, took a different view, as she was looking for smaller charities to which to give money from what I believe was quite a substantial estate.

We have also received a much smaller legacy this year from someone who wasn't known to us at all. Again, his estate was divided between five charities. I thought it was rather unusual, as he lived in a council house, and his estate consisted simply of his savings, minus his rent and care fees.

We even received a sort of legacy from Wally Kinder, our former Chairman, who died in April 2013. We were contacted

at the beginning of the year by a gentleman from the Inn on the Green pub in Birmingham to say he had one of our collecting boxes, and it needed emptying. We remembered that Wally had put a collecting box in this pub, and we had received some money from it in 2012. I sent Neil Ewart to empty the box for us. We were surprised to learn that it contained over £70. Therefore, Wally is still helping us indirectly, even though he is no longer with us.

We have advertised in the *Law Society Gazette* for legacies, and on a website used by solicitors when looking for technical help with legal cases. The website owners say that the solicitors who use the website for that purpose often decide to advise their clients who don't have a home for their estates when they die to give money to charities advertising on this website.

So far this year, we have held two Flag Days, one on 25 April at Euston Station, where four collectors raised just over £2,000, and one on Saturday, 7 June, at Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, Gillingham, Kent, where seven collectors raised nearly £973. We have the Mufti Day on 27 June at the special needs school in Richmond, Surrey, a collection on 11 July at Victoria Station, a street collection on 26 July in Coventry, and a collection on 9 August at Into Uxbridge Shopping Centre, Uxbridge, which used to be called the Chimes.

Earlier I mentioned the legacies we have received recently. This reminds me to urge members and supporters to leave us legacies, so that the work of the charity can continue after their deaths. One supporter has already told us he will leave us a bequest. If you leave us a bequest before we start using our

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new charity number, please point out our new number, 1156790, to your will writer. Our name is staying the same.

If you can raise funds for us, please contact us and tell us how you plan to do this. We have a Fundraising Handbook, which we can send you in large or normal print, in braille, or on tape. Recently I also received a book about fundraising from a charity volunteer in Oxfordshire. The book hasn't been published. He said he volunteers for several charities, so does not have time to volunteer for Seeing Dogs. When I asked him what the point of his email was, he said he wanted to help other charities by telling them how to raise funds. He is dyslexic and dyspraxic (dyspraxia being a mental problem making co-ordination difficult), and also has another disability, but he didn't say what that is.

Roger and Tony, the "Pet Shop Boys", who used to run Pets Pantry in Whitstable, Kent, have retired to Spain. Their place has been taken by Duncan Webb and Helen Lucas, who are continuing the shop's support for us. I think we have received over £200 so far this year, although we don't send the shop owners receipts, as Dave Villanueva, one of our supporters, and the person who sells our stamps, empties the shop's collecting box and gives the owners a receipt, before sending us a cheque to the value of the cash in the box.

That's all the fundraising news I have for this time.

Chris Parker

WARTIME FACTS

by
NEIL EWART

I recently heard some discussions about pet dogs during the Second World War. In 1939 the Government was very concerned that pets, especially dogs, would go into a state of panic when the expected bombs began to fall. Also, it was anticipated that all types of food would be in very short supply. Therefore, the general advice was to seriously consider having pets put down. Apparently, this did happen, and there are known mass burial sites outside London.

I suppose it is easy to criticise the Government's approach with our gift of hindsight, but I can understand why there should have been misgivings concerning the wisdom of keeping pets with the very real threat of bombing, gas attacks and, probably, an invasion.

The only assistance dog organisations in existence at the time would have been guide dog organisations, Guide Dogs in the UK having been formed in 1931. This made me curious to find out what they did, as surely their dogs did not pay a one way visit to the vet?

Dogs actually continued to be trained throughout the War. In the period 1939 to 1941, this was in Wallasey, and the location was known as The Cliff. It is reported that time was wasted when people came to be trained with dogs, as no boarding house could be found which would allow their dogs to stay as well. Also, when air

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raids started, the Anderson shelter at the boarding house used would get so crowded that the blind students were often unable to sit down, with the result that they were frequently tired and unwilling to do much training. The bombings, understandably, affected the nerves of many, which, in turn, interfered with training. For a short time, a conscious decision was made to concentrate more on acquiring and training dogs, until an improvement could be made.

In 1941, Guide Dogs was evicted from The Cliff when the military requisitioned the site. New premises were identified in Leamington Spa, and a move was made. This was quite lucky, as a German bomb later fell on the Wallasey site, so it was a blessing in disguise.

During the first year at the new premises, they were able to get meat from a local horseflesh dealer, but the supply was erratic and the meat was often bad. The Manager of Guide Dogs, Captain Liakhoff, blamed a large number of hysteria cases in dogs, and even epileptic fits, on this poor meat. He was proved to be possibly right, as they later dealt directly with a slaughterer, and these problems quickly vanished.

Once qualified as guides, I discovered that arrangements had to be made to ensure that working guide dogs could be taken by their owners into air raid shelters, and there were special allowances of 35 lb of "cereal" dog food per month, made by the Government. Feeding was definitely a problem, and an article in the very first issue of *Forward*, the Guide Dogs magazine, in 1943, suggested the various foods that could be used. It

is interesting that the writer was rather sceptical about the value of the tinned dog foods then available. I quote: “they are quite good and useful but as a stand by when other meat is not obtainable!.”

In a later issue, there was a paragraph explaining that Government regulations forbade dog food manufacturers adding new customers to their lists, but they were willing to supply guide dog owners with some iron rations, to be used by them, if required.

Even in wartime, the emotional appeal of a dog helping a human meant the level of financial support remained surprisingly high. Furthermore, The Tail Waggers’ magazine, with its huge circulation, continued to be produced, and carried monthly articles about guide dogs. Credit must be given to a Miss Lillian Shrimpton, who was Secretary of both the Tail Waggers and Guide Dogs. It is on record that she never missed a day at the Gray’s Inn Road office, in London, throughout the War, working very long hours to keep the two organizations on their feet during the very worst of the bombings and other disruptions.

The War was a testing time for guide dogs and their owners. A familiar route could change dramatically after a heavy air raid. Despite the obvious hazards and deprivations, I could not find any record of a dog having to be withdrawn from working due to any trauma brought on by the wartime conditions.

Alfred Morgan worked a guide dog in the Liverpool Docks area. He described how his border collie, Fly, guided him safely through nine months of regular blitzes,

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getting him to and from work without the loss of a single hour. He called her his “war dog”, because he brought her home on 2 September 1939, the day war was declared, and because it was the War that brought out her best qualities!!

On one occasion, when all the possible ways ahead were blocked by rubble, Fly turned on her tail and walked back a few vehicles to where there was a small space, and found a pavement. The way ahead was still blocked, so she hesitated a second, and then deliberately set off down a small side street and then deliberately chose another at right angles, and then rejoined their usual route about 200 yards further down.

The dog’s actions had been witnessed, and one observer said: “She made a damned sight better job of it than most of us would have done.”

“Do you realize,” Morgan wrote to Guide Dogs, “of all the blind people in Liverpool, only four are going about, and have been going about, in their normal way. They are all guide dog owners. Others who were not evacuated,” he continued, “are now handicapped worse than ever by the loss of many of their landmarks by the raids ... Our problem isn’t landmarks, but obstacles. And they are not really difficulties, they are merely disconcerting when one comes on them suddenly.

“The dog does the rest!”

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If you wish to give a donation and/or pay your subscription automatically each year, please complete the enclosed Bankers' Order and return it to us, as we need to keep a record of who pays their subscription or donates by this method. We'll send it to your bank. Payments can be made monthly, quarterly or annually by this method. If you want to combine a regular donation with your subscription using this method, £5 of your first payment of the financial year will be considered to be your subscription. A new Bankers' Order will replace an existing one.

The Subscription and Donation Form and the Bankers' Order will also be enclosed with the braille and tape copies, and they will be sent as an attachment to the email copies.

If you are a taxpayer and you are giving £20 or more, and you haven't given us permission to claim Gift Aid on your subscription and/or donation before January 2013, we would be grateful if you could complete the Gift Aid Declaration on whichever of the forms you use, to give us permission to claim Gift Aid. However, please read the information given on it very carefully, as it has changed

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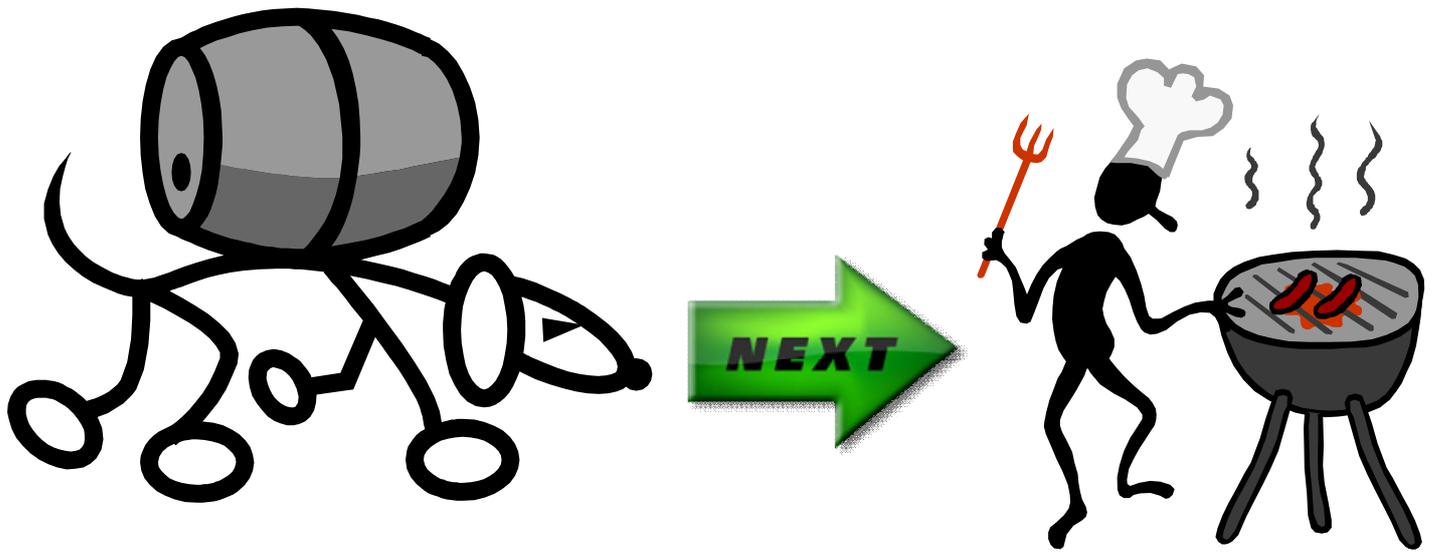
for new donations given from the beginning of 2013. Payments under £20 automatically attract Gift Aid.

You can donate online via our website, www.seeingdog.org.uk, using a debit or credit card, or a Paypal account. In the last issue, we said we hoped you would be able to make regular donations online by the time you received that issue. Well, you wouldn't have been able to then, but you can now.

You can donate, or pay subscriptions, by a direct bank transfer, although if you wish us to claim Gift Aid, and you are giving £20 or more, you will have to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. Our bank details are: sort code 40-52-40, account number 00010645. These details are also on the Bankers' Order.

If you donate online or by direct bank transfer, or if you pay subscriptions by direct bank transfer, please let us know.

You can donate anonymously if you wish, either by sending a cheque direct to Caf Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4JQ, or via our website. However, we like to acknowledge donations, so we would rather you let us know who you are.



That's it then
I'm off to the "Barbie"
Have a great summer!!!