

# Let's Go!

2017

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**Canine Partners**

Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

Find out  
more about  
My Amazing  
Puppy



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# Welcome



We've had another busy year at Canine Partners with even more planned for 2017.

We have completed the accommodation at our new midlands centre (p12) which even won an award! In February our first partnerships came to stay onsite for their two-week training course.

But it's not over yet - we're planning the final phase of this project, building a new kennel block to house up to 24 of our amazing dogs. We still need funding to make this dream a reality, so please do what you can to help.

Meanwhile, we welcome our new chair of trustees Jackie Staunton into the hot seat as Mark Richardson steps down. So it's a huge thank you to Mark for his four years as chair and for agreeing to continue being a trustee. He will be a great help to Jackie as she picks up the baton.

You will find touching testimonies within these pages demonstrating the immense depth of bond within every canine partnership, as Natalie explains (p14).

And in this issue you can read about the terrible pain that occurs when a canine partner passes away. Sally and Claire tell their stories on pages 18-19.

As a charity, we are determined to make life better for those we partner with these specially trained dogs, and it is our responsibility to set people back on a positive path after they have experienced such a loss. There is light at the end of the tunnel however, with the arrival of a new

dog and with the knowledge that more exciting adventures lie in store.

Exciting times are on the horizon for you too as we revitalise our My Amazing Puppy scheme which enables everyone to help sponsor a trainee assistance dog for as little as £1 a week (p6).

And you can see how our puppies are doing (p8). Many of these pups will go on to help inspiring people like Phil Eaglesham who has been matched with canine partner Cooper (p10). You can also hear of Phil's pioneering new wheelchair, a project that is supported by charities including Canine Partners and Help for Heroes.

We couldn't train these amazing dogs without backing from our corporate supporters (p20), community groups (p4) and fundraising events (p22-26) as well as those who leave us a gift in their will (page 27).

We are also recruiting more volunteer puppy parents who train our puppies during their first year - so if you can help with that, please get in touch.

It's more important than ever that we continue to receive support from our volunteers and that we continue raising money after we had to suspend our waiting list to new applicants in January 2017.

This difficult decision was taken so that we can prioritise people already on the list and work hard to reduce the waiting time for a canine partner.

We would like to thank everyone who does so much to help us continue transforming lives with our amazing dogs.

I hope you enjoy this bumper edition.

Onwards and upwards

**Andy Cook,**  
CEO Canine Partners

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P.S. When you have finished reading, please share this magazine with friends and family or donate it to your doctor's, dentist's or hairdresser's waiting area.

## Get in touch

**We always love to hear from you.**

You can follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Write to us at:

**Mill Lane, Heyshott,  
West Sussex GU29 0ED**

or call **08456 580 480.**





# Our Purple spreading

## We wouldn't be the charity we are today without our fantastic volunteers.

They work tirelessly to help us create our amazing partnerships.

The majority of this growing band of volunteers are members of our eight community groups in east Surrey, Fareham, Southampton, Bedford, Leicestershire, Hull, Staffordshire and Scotland.

The groups come up with a huge range of fundraising ideas and host exciting events throughout the year to help bring in money and raise awareness of how our amazing dogs transform people's lives.

In 2016 these events included a Barking Bonanza dog show at Royal Victoria Country Park in Hampshire. The show was organised by the Fareham community group in conjunction with Annette Bowcott and Hamble Hounds and the groups are already planning this year's event for 30th April.

Our community groups have also organised lots of coffee mornings, dinner parties and walks, so that people up and down the UK can get involved and learn more about Canine Partners.

## Our amazing support group in Bedford

Carol Lloyd joined our family of volunteers 10 years ago when she became a puppy parent.

The mum-of-two liked the idea of looking after a canine partner puppy in its first year so that it would go on to change a person's life.

But as she continued volunteering with us, she wanted to help even further and became one of the first members of our Bedford community group. She is now chair of the group while continuing her role as a puppy parent.

Since the Bedford community group was launched in 2009 they have raised more than £207,000 by putting on a range of fundraisers and attending other events in and around the Bedford area.

The friendly group meets on a monthly basis to discuss fundraising ideas and work out whether any of their team is able to represent us at events.

Carol, 56, from Wootton, Bedfordshire, said: "We have a wonderful team spirit. The group is lovely and really supportive.

"It's a great way to raise the profile and be a part of a fantastic charity.

"There's no pressure on how much you do, so if you want to come along and help that's fantastic but if you can't that's fine too.

"It makes everything worthwhile knowing how much difference you're making to people's lives by raising money so that Canine Partners can continue training these amazing dogs."



## Become a community champion

We are looking for enthusiastic people across the UK who would like to volunteer as community champions and help us raise awareness about our amazing charity.

These volunteers can help by putting up posters, attending events in and around their local communities and they can also come up with their own events and ideas of how we can raise money.

Community champions will have continued support from our fundraising team.

For more information about becoming a community champion or a community group member, email [fundraising@caninepartners.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@caninepartners.org.uk)



**When canine partner Yukon moved in with Graham Hewett, it wasn't just Graham's life that was transformed – his wife Pat's was too.**

Pat had given up her career as a teacher so that she could look after Graham who had had a stroke that caused him to become paralysed and develop speech difficulties, asphasia and severe epilepsy.

But with Yukon by Graham's side, Pat was able to go out on her own again, safe in the knowledge that her husband was being well looked after by their four-legged saviour who was able to press a panic alarm and call for help.

In fact, she said that Yukon changed her and Graham's life so much that she wanted to give something back – so she became one of our community champions and founded the east Surrey community group.

"I wanted to help Canine Partners because of how much they had helped us," said Pat.

"Nobody in our area had heard of Canine Partners at that time, so that's when I decided to create the tea towel."

The special tea towel helped promote us and featured as many paw prints as she could gather from Outwood, in Surrey, where she and Graham live.

The tea towel made £800 within just six weeks and we were so impressed with the idea, we wanted to create a version to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

Eventually Pat and residents of her village had raised enough money to sponsor canine partner Drummer, a goldendoodle.

"It was fantastic because the whole village could see where the money we had raised had gone," said Pat.

"But I didn't want to stop at that – I wanted to raise the rest of the money to sponsor Drummer throughout his partnership, so I organised more fundraising events."

With support from village pubs, Pat and her neighbours raised the full amount to fund Drummer through our Gift of Independence scheme within just 18 months.

When she wasn't raising much-needed funds, she was speaking to clubs and organisations as part of our team of volunteer speakers and helping raise awareness.

Pat said: "Life had shut so many doors on me and I was suffering from having to give up my career to look after Graham.

"Then the doors began to open to me again through my work with Canine Partners and I was able to do what I love doing again while getting the word out about the charity in Surrey. I felt I was back in a team again."

Eventually Pat and the east Surrey community group, had raised enough support and awareness for Canine Partners within Surrey that in 2014 we were able to launch our Surrey puppy training group which meets at Horley Methodist Church.

"The group likes the fact that they're involved, they're appreciated, and no matter how little is raised it will help somebody else in the future," said Pat.

"Over the years, I have seen the difference these dogs make on so many occasions.

"It always amazes me when people who have heard about us come to me with ideas because they want to do something for Canine Partners.

"And I never know what kindness will come back to Canine Partners through me."

Yukon retired in November 2016 and continues to live with Graham and Pat, along with his successor dog, Beau.





# my amazing puppy



**[myamazingpuppy.org.uk](http://myamazingpuppy.org.uk)**

## Sponsor a puppy. Transform a life.

It's everybody's favourite way to help train an amazing puppy – without the poo bags, vet bills or muddy paw prints.

And now our My Amazing Puppy sponsorship scheme has been revitalised – and it promises to be better than ever before.

It comes as a whole new class of puppies take the spotlight in 2017 as they keep their sponsors up to date with their first year of training through our popular 'pupdates'.

And the puppies are more excited than ever to get their paws into gear and start writing to their supporters.

The first youngsters that can be sponsored from Easter 2017 include cheeky black Labrador Daisy and affectionate golden retriever Bud.

Later in the year, people will have the chance to sponsor friendly chocolate Labrador Sky or yellow Labrador Summer who is small and bouncy.

And this Christmas we bring you the ultimate stocking filler for lasting fun throughout 2018 as there is a chance to support

excitable Labrador cross golden retriever Dasher or brainy black labradoodle Dancer.

My Amazing Puppy members could even consider sponsoring all of this year's puppies to help us train even more dogs and make a difference to more disabled people's lives.

Everyone who becomes a My Amazing Puppy member is supporting us in funding the purchase and training of future assistance dogs that will help with everyday tasks and boost someone's independence and confidence.



**People can sponsor an amazing puppy today for as little as £1 a week.**

New members receive a soft toy puppy, a special personalised certificate, a photograph of their chosen pup and regular 'pupdate' newsletters about its progress during the first year of its training.

Every member is helping Canine Partners change someone's life forever as all proceeds go into the training of more amazing assistance dogs for disabled people.

**Sign up today by visiting [myamazingpuppy.org.uk](http://myamazingpuppy.org.uk)**





Daisy

## Hello!

I'm Daisy and this is my friend Bud. We're so excited because we've both been chosen as some of Canine Partners' cutest, most amazing puppies under its My Amazing Puppy sponsorship scheme.

That means we get to write lots of letters to all of our adoring fans and tell them how much fun we're having while we learn how to become assistance dogs. We'll keep you informed of our antics during our first year of training before we head off to 'big school'

otherwise known as advanced training.

We both think we're pretty clever already (I'm definitely cleverer than Bud but don't tell him that!) – but apparently we're going to learn how to do lots of things that most dogs can't.

Canine Partners' puppy trainers say they want us to learn how to always be on our best behaviour. I'm not sure I will always manage – but I can definitely try and be good most of the time. I'm only a puppy after all!

They want us to sit, wait or lie down as soon as we're asked and they want us to stay calm when we're walking on a lead.

And eventually we will also learn how we can help people by fetching anything they need, pressing things with our noses or tugging things to get them to move. And once we're experts at all of that, we will learn how to put all of these skills into action in the real world, by opening doors, pushing buttons and picking up all sorts of items.

We can't wait to start training because we both love to learn and we just know there will be loads of fun to have along the way – going to new places and meeting new people, puppies and other animals. There's bound to be lots of chances to play games and we may even get some tasty treats too.

Bud and I are looking forward to writing our first 'pupdates' and making friends with our new pen pals.



Bud



## When they found out they could sponsor a puppy and help change someone's life they were keen to sign up.

Tylar, 11, and Alannah Pollock, nine, heard about Canine Partners through their mum, Tracey, after the nursery she works at had a visit from one of our demonstration dogs.

The young dog lovers were eager to get involved so put on a presentation to show their family all of the skills our amazing dogs can do and how much difference they make to disabled people's lives.

After the presentation their family gave Tylar and Alannah some money so that they could sponsor an amazing puppy.

The children, who live near Glasgow, chose to sponsor yellow Labrador Mack and were sent a special toy and photograph.

Mack then kept in touch to tell them how he was getting on as he embarked on his journey to become an assistance dog.

Tylar said: "I have always liked dogs and I wanted to do something for charity so when I heard about Canine Partners I did a presentation to raise money to sponsor a puppy. My family were all pleased with how well I did."

"I found out about how Canine Partners help people who have disabilities and how the dogs can help with chores. They can help with the washing machine and get things their owner needs."

Alannah added: "I liked knowing how Mack was getting on and if he was okay. It was really nice to know I was helping someone as well."

"It's a great way of supporting Canine Partners. You just feel amazing because you have done it."

Alannah and Tylar's mum, Tracey said she would recommend sponsoring an amazing puppy to other families.

She said: "They enjoyed it because they felt like they had their own puppy and they got a free toy. They could also watch video clips on Canine Partners' website and see what the dogs did. It's something they could relate to. It's about dogs and it's age appropriate as well."

"I thought the 'pupdates' were really good because there were pictures. They were both taking turns to read them and show their gran."

"They actually got to see how their efforts were helping in real life."

"Whenever they see a working assistance dog they get really excited because they recognise its jacket and know all about how much difference the dog is making to that person's life."

"It's definitely something they would like to continue."



# New pups on the block

We thought you would like to see some of our new recruits! Each puppy on this page has started its two year journey to become an assistance dog and is currently being taught the core tasks and socialisation skills it needs to one day change the life of an adult with physical disabilities.



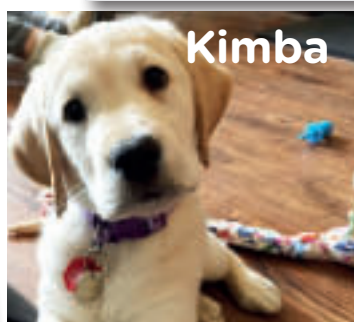
**Iggle**

"The camera loves me!"



**Ivan**

"It's time for an adventure!"



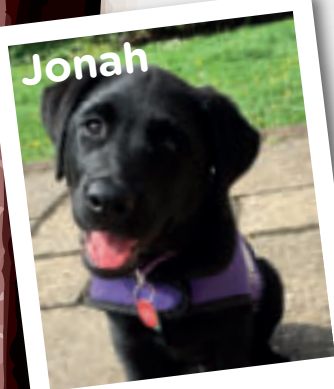
**Kimba**

"Is it play time yet?"



**Kira**

"Did you capture my best side?"



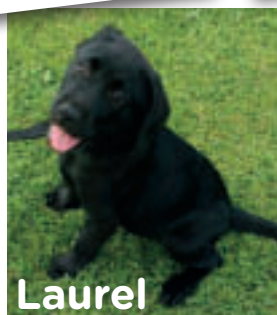
**Jonah**

"Did I do a good sit?"



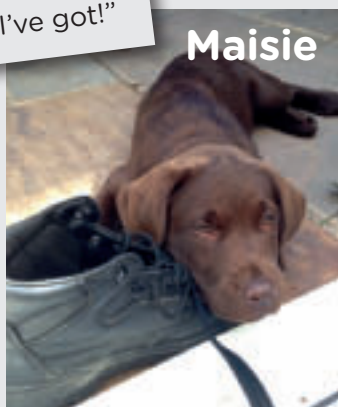
**Kenya**

"Look what I've got!"



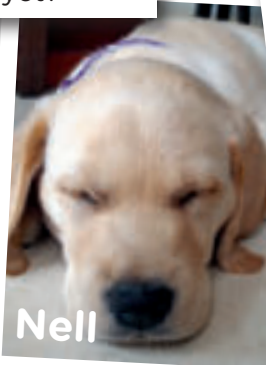
**Laurel**

"It's walkies time!"



**Maisie**

"Are you sure this isn't a pillow?"



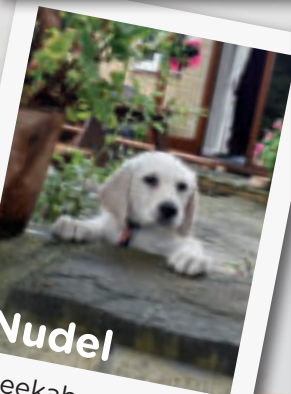
**Nell**

"Zzzz do not disturb"



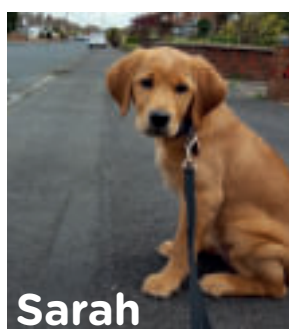
**Nova**

"Mmm I love a good chew on my toys."



**Nudel**

"Peekaboo! I'm here to help."



**Sarah**

"Come on, we'll be late for puppy class!"



**Porter**

"I love taking a nap with my favourite toy."



# Ask the expert

## Why do we need to breed our own puppies?

We talk to puppy training and breeding manager **Lyn Owen** about her time so far with Canine Partners and the importance of breeding our own puppies.



Lyn Owen started working at Canine Partners 18 months ago as our puppy training and breeding manager after 35 years at Guide Dogs for the Blind.

She worked there as a kennel maid, a trainer and then led the department responsible for training staff who worked with guide dogs and their owners.

"I'm really interested in how dog behaviour develops," said Lyn.

"I'm fascinated in how their behaviour starts from the point of gestation. Everything that happens to a bitch while she's carrying her litter and her behaviour when they're in the nest has a profound effect on each puppy."

Since Lyn has been at the charity she has been trying to increase the number of puppies starting the early stages of training while establishing a top quality breeding programme.

Lyn said: "Having enough of our own brood bitch holders and puppy parents will mean we can stack things in our favour and achieve better success rates while becoming better placed to meet the ever-changing needs of our partners."

"We're keen to find more volunteers that can support our planned growth, so we are able to help more disabled people."

Lyn said: "We wouldn't be able to create the number of partnerships we need without our volunteers"

Bitches on the breeding programme live as part of a brood bitch holder's family. The volunteer ensures the dog is kept fit and healthy and that their training is maintained.

The puppies are born at the volunteer's home and the newborn puppies stay a part of that household until they are around seven weeks old.

Brood bitches will usually have one litter a year and a maximum of four litters in total.

The puppy department tests the health and temperament of any puppies and bitches Canine Partners is looking to purchase and enrol either into training or onto the breeding scheme.

"We test all our broods to make sure they meet the highest standards possible" said Lyn.

"This means they not only have to look good and have a fantastic temperament, they also have to pass strict health tests to ensure they are free from specific hereditary diseases and they have good eyes, hips and elbows."

"Our brood bitches are the cream of the crop and only the very best achieve this accolade. Those that are not selected will start formal training to become a canine partner."

For more information on volunteering opportunities including becoming a brood bitch holder call **08456 580480** or visit **[caninepartners.org.uk/volunteer](http://caninepartners.org.uk/volunteer)**



### Puppy department terminology

**Bitch** – a female dog

**Brood bitch holder** – a special volunteer that looks after dogs that will become mothers to future canine partners

**Brood** – a family of a mother dog and her young puppies

**Gestation** – another term for pregnancy

**Kennel maid** – a term for someone who looks after the dogs while they are boarding at a training centre. At Canine Partners, we call this department our dog welfare team

**Litter** – a group of puppy siblings born at the same time

**Puppy parent (or puppy socialiser)** – a special volunteer that looks after a puppy until it is about 14 months old and helps teach it basic skills and obedience





## Partnership

# Phil and Cooper

**Royal Marines Commando Phil Eaglesham was at the peak of fitness and looking forward to meeting his newborn son for the first time after a six-month tour of duty.**

Then, two days before he was due to return home from Afghanistan he was struck down by Q fever, a rare bacterial infection that lives in the soil and is spread by animals.

The chronic illness, which started with flu-like symptoms, took hold when he was just 29 years old and caused his muscles to weaken so much he was forced to rely on his wife, Julie, for everything – from getting dressed to brushing his teeth.

As he struggled with his mobility, Phil didn't want to leave their home in Taunton, Somerset.

But then he met canine partner Cooper and now life couldn't be more different.

The pair were matched just after Phil, who is originally from Northern Ireland, returned from

competing in target shooting at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

The golden Labrador moved in with Phil, who is now 35, Julie and their children, Travis, 13, Tyler, nine and Mason, six, just before Christmas 2016.

"He fits in with our family. It's like having another teenager in the house," said Phil, a former corporal who has completed tours of duty in Norway and Iraq and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for outstanding achievement while serving his country.

"It seems like we have had him forever. We would be lost without him.

"He loves the boys. His tail goes in helicopter circles whenever they come home.

"The kids love him too. They say hello to him before they talk to me sometimes.

"They like to see him doing things for me and helping me out. They're quite proud of him."

Cooper picks up anything Phil drops, opens and closes doors, fetches the phone when it rings



# Canine partner Cooper lends a paw in designing a revolutionary new wheelchair

Phil is now getting ready to launch the first of his revolutionary new Victor wheelchairs which will be the first affordable chair that will help increase disabled people's mobility.

The special new chair has been four years in the making.

Phil realised that there was a gap in the market for an affordable, aesthetically pleasing and height adjustable mobility aid after he became reliant on a wheelchair.

He set up his company Victor Mobility with support from Brian Meaden, father of Dragons' Den's Deborah Meaden and received further investment through crowdfunding.

The Victor, which is being developed by engineers from Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre,

will be height adjustable so that the user can choose the appropriate height and sit comfortably at a desk or dinner table and then rise to standing height when necessary.

It has been designed so that it will be able to comfortably fit through doorways, it will be useable on footpaths and roads, and it can handle difficult terrains, as well as kerbs and doorsteps.

Phil said: "It will be about helping people live in an able-bodied world and it will take into consideration things like getting through doors and visiting other people's houses.

"Hopefully it will enable more businesses not to have to make changes for people with disabilities. Maybe instead of making changes to their premises, they might opt to buy a chair for a disabled employee."

For Phil, the chair will be the final piece in the jigsaw.

"With Cooper by my side, and with the chair, I will be so much more independent," said Phil.

Now Cooper and his friends at Canine Partners are supporting Phil as he continues to develop the chair to ensure all models are easy to use by someone that has an assistance dog.

Cooper has even attended business meetings to lend his paw and offer advice.

Phil added: "Things need to be planned into the design so that it's easy for people with assistance dogs. Those things need to be thought about from the start."

Our CEO Andy Cook said: "We're extremely excited to be supporting Phil as he launches these exciting new wheelchairs.

"We hope that they will boost even more people's independence - including many people who may already be supported by a canine partner.

"We can't wait until the first ones are in use."

The first two chairs will come into use in September 2017 and be tested by Phil and a team of volunteers who have different needs.

Phil is also planning to take at least one of his state-of-the-art chairs to the Invictus Games in Toronto on the 23rd September 2017 where it'll be used by a disabled serviceman or woman competing in the event.

Victor Mobility is backed by Canine Partners, The Royal Marines Charity, Help for Heroes, Greenwich Hospital, Heropreneurs and BLESMA.

and he can help Phil undress.

But most of all, he boosts Phil's confidence and he encourages him to go out more.

"When I heard Canine Partners had a dog for me I was over the moon. I knew it was going to give me a lot more independence and companionship and I had always wanted a dog.

"He is great. He is lovely. So happy and energetic but he also likes to lie down and sleep. We enjoy the same things.

"The best thing about him is having the companionship. Before he moved in, I spent a lot of time on my own.

"He makes me get out of the house and makes me more confident.

"We go out a lot more because I take Cooper out for a lot of walks.

"Now it's good to look to the future, which I hadn't really done before."

Phil is currently preparing for the next Paralympic Games in 2020.





# Our final push to finish our midlands training centre

**Celebration was in the air as we picked up the keys to our new state-of-the-art residential block at our midlands training centre.**

We have now welcomed the first few partners to stay onsite as they complete their two-week training course before their assistance dogs move in with them.

It marked the completion of the second part of our three-phase project to build our new centre on the site of a former pig farm in Osgathorpe, Leicestershire.

It comes five years after we launched our capital appeal to raise funds to develop the special new centre which will enable us to double the number of dogs we can train while making the charity more accessible to applicants and partners in the midlands and northern regions of the UK.

Plans for the new midlands centre were unveiled in 2014 and we quickly got to work on the first phase, which features two training arenas, lecture facilities and offices.

And last year we began working on the fully accessible residential block as part of the second phase.

The block, which is attached to the main building, includes four fully accessible ensuite bedrooms, complete with hoists and special beds that will help people get in and out of their wheelchair and their bed.

The block also has a glazed walkway to the main centre so people can move between their rooms and the training arenas in all weather.

And there is an open plan, modern kitchen and communal room where partners will be able to relax at the end of each day on the training course.

The accommodation means applicants in Scotland and the north that stay with us for their assessment and training will not have to travel as far to reach their nearest training centre.

Now we are beginning the third and final phase of the project – a special new kennel block where our dogs will stay while they are completing their 17 weeks of advanced training and meeting their new owners at their residential course.

The modern block will include 12 kennels which will house up to 24 dogs at a time and provide space for them to rest when they are not with our training team.

It will also feature a kitchen and area for our dog welfare team to look after the dogs.

This is an essential step in the development of the training centre as until now, dogs training in the midlands have had to stay in temporary accommodation including off-site kennels.

The new kennels will mean we can train our dogs in the midlands more efficiently and in more comfortable surroundings, while continuing to provide them with the best level of care.

## 2012



We began fundraising for the new centre and we purchased a former pig farm in Osgathorpe, Leicestershire

## 2014



Plans were unveiled for the state-of-the-art training centre and we later completed the main training building

## 2015



Derelict buildings were demolished to make way for our accommodation block



# A top prize for our special new centre

## It's simply the best!

Our new state-of-the-art Midlands accommodation has scooped a prestigious award for being the 'best residential accommodation'.

It was given the prize on the 6th October 2016 at the Forum for the Built Environment (fbe) Awards, which aims to recognise top development.

Our accommodation was nominated by North Midland Construction, who helped us complete the construction project.

Canine Partners' training manager Lisa Coles said: "We're extremely excited to receive such a prestigious award recognising the work that has gone into creating our new accommodation block.

"Our state-of-the-art facilities will provide better accessibility

and a more comfortable stay for our partners and allow us to facilitate up to four partnerships in training at a time, meaning the creation of more life-transforming partnerships."

The award was presented at a glamorous ceremony at the City Rooms in Leicester hosted by former BBC East Midlands political reporter John Hess in front of 120 construction, development and property workers.

It went up against a development of six new family homes on the site of the former Bull's Head pub in Tur Langton in Leicestershire, a scheme to build five low-energy one-bedroom flats in Green Lane, Nottingham, and a development of 350 student flats in Cathedral Court in Derby.

The awards are held by the fbe, a property industry networking organisation which has branches across the UK including in the East Midlands, covering Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

To help us complete the final phase of this project by contributing to our capital appeal, visit [caninepartners.org.uk/donate](https://caninepartners.org.uk/donate)



## 2016

The accommodation block was built, adjoining our training building




## January 2017

We were given the keys to the new kitchen and ensuite bedrooms



## February 2017

The first partnerships stayed onsite at our Midlands Training Centre



“Faye has given me back my life”

## Partnership

# Natalie and Faye

**Natalie Preston was told she would never do the things that most people take for granted – but with her canine partner by her side she has done the unimaginable.**

Doctors told her parents there was no hope for her when she was just six-months-old.

They said she would never walk, talk or even sit up on her own.

Natalie Preston was born with cerebral palsy, a condition affecting the brain and nervous system causing problems with her muscles, balance and coordination.

But after years of therapy and hard work she defied the doctors. Her parents spent six hours a day, six days a week doing physiotherapy with Natalie, with support of other

family members, friends and students at Southport College.

Their hard work paid off and before her third birthday she was walking and talking.

She attended mainstream school and achieved GCSEs – defying teachers who believed the coursework and exams would be beyond someone with her condition.

Now with help from her best friend and canine partner Faye, she has done what doctors and teachers thought would be unimaginable – achieving a masters degree and working towards a career in television.

Natalie, who is now 27, wants to inspire other people to reach for their dreams – whether or not they have a disability.

But she would not be in the place she is today without canine partner Faye.





Natalie, from Southport, Merseyside, said: "I instantly fell in love with her. I felt we had a special connection from the moment we met."

"Since meeting her, the world around me has become brighter every day."

The pair have been inseparable since their on-site training course at Canine Partners' midlands centre in July 2013 – just weeks after Natalie had completed a degree in animation at the University of Lancashire.

"At the end of each day of training we would lie on the floor together and she would gaze into my eyes as I talked to her."

"On the first day of the course I found out I had been accepted on a masters degree course."

"And during my studies Faye gave me confidence to travel alone on the train to university each day and gave my parents piece of

mind that I was being taken care of."

Now Natalie cannot imagine life without the five-year-old black Labrador by her side.

"The time since I have had Faye has been the best of my life," Natalie added.

"Before having Faye I was very shy and self-conscious. I would worry about what other people thought of me, but now Faye has completely changed that. People actually talk to me now, rather than talking about me or just ignoring me."

"Now I wake up not having to think about how I will cope and I don't worry about dropping things because I know Faye is always by my side ready to help me."

"Faye helps me get ready in the mornings and brings me my phone and keys without me having to ask her."

"She gets the washing out of the machine, she gets the post for me and she picks things up from the floor. She also helps take my shoes and socks off, flushes the toilet, puts things in the bin and gets money out of the cash machine after I've entered my pin number."

"I love Faye so much. She has completely turned my life around. She's given me my life back and she's given me something to look forward to."

"I could not possibly imagine being without Faye. She has simply changed my life."

"All I can say is thank you Canine Partners for giving me my life back. Faye helps me and I love caring for her - together we are a real team."



# A day in the life of an advanced trainer

**Clare Cannon is an advanced trainer at Canine Partners' Southern Training Centre. She told us why she loves working for the charity and what her job involves on a typical day.**

Clare fell in love with training assistance dogs while she was working towards her degree in animal behaviour at Liverpool University.

During her final year she had the chance to volunteer with the puppy department at Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. After that, she was hooked and knew she wanted a career as an assistance dog trainer.

Clare got a job at Canine Partners in July 2011 after completing her degree and since then she has trained more than 45 assistance dogs to help disabled people.

Clare, 27, who is originally from Leeds, now lives in Emsworth in Hampshire, with her seven-year-old black Labrador Taylor.

She said: "I just love working with the dogs and I'm fascinated by their unwavering devotion and their ability to adapt to help different people's physical restrictions.

"I find it particularly rewarding working on a behavioural issue and seeing the dog develop over time. I also enjoy training a dog to help with more unusual needs, like getting the dog to help raise someone's legs into bed. It means I also get to learn something new and work with the dog and the potential partner to develop the skill.

"Matching a dog with someone is really difficult because you're trying to give that person the dog that's most suited to them. It can be quite stressful because you know that the decisions you make are going to change someone's life, but you don't want to make the wrong decision for the person and for the dog. We take a lot of time and due care to make sure we have got it right.

"It's sad to see the dogs go once they've completed their training because I build a strong bond with them but it's also a very happy time too because you can see the love that the dog and person has for each other.

"It's lovely when you see a partnership that's really right for each other – when you see that both the dog and person are well suited and just how much the dog will benefit them."

## 8.30am

Clare starts her working day by making sure all four of the dogs that she is training have had their breakfast. While most dogs are fed by the dog welfare team, sometimes the trainers will use breakfast time to practise certain skills using their food as a reward.

After all of her dogs have eaten, Clare will give each of them an opportunity to use the toileting areas, signalling to them they had 'better go now'. It is important that Clare helps the dogs get into a toileting routine so that the disabled person they are matched with can ensure the dog can go at a time and place that suits them. Normally a working canine partner will use a special toilet area at home before going out for the day.





## 9am

The advanced training team take their dogs out roughly three times a week either in the mornings or the afternoons. If it's Clare's turn to go out in the morning she will have all of her dogs ready to go by 9am. Dogs will be taken on their first trip away from the training centre a few weeks into the programme, starting in a quiet residential area nearby before moving onto busier environments.

Once they park up, Clare will take the dogs out one by one for between 20 and 30 minutes at a time. During their first outings, they will practise their obedience and walking on a loose lead while maintaining good eye contact with Clare. She will watch their body language to ensure they are enjoying being out and watch for anything they are drawn to or nervous of, which may affect their training. As they progress and gain confidence, Clare will take them to areas where there are more and more things that could distract them and also begin practising other skills while they are out.

Clare said: "Each dog progresses at its own individual rate and therefore it is important not to move onto something new or more difficult until the dog is ready."

## 11.30am

Once Clare has returned to the training centre with her dogs, she will give them each another chance to use the toileting areas. Then she quickly catches up with emails and any paperwork before lunch.

## 1.30pm

The afternoon training session begins at 1.30pm. Any trainers taking their dogs off-site will be leaving now. If Clare took her dogs out in the morning she would spend the afternoon working with them at the training centre.

This involves practising their recalls – ensuring they return to Clare as soon as she calls them when they are off the lead. The majority of the dogs' task-based training revolves around developing their touch, tug and

retrieve skills they have started to learn with their puppy parents. Clare will teach them how a touch of their nose can enable them to press buttons and switches and how a tug can help them open a door or even help to undress a person. She will also teach them how to pick up a range of different textured objects so that they can retrieve anything a person might need bringing to them.

Clare said: "We try to develop and work on the core skills relatively early in the dogs' training. In doing this we can start to figure out which skills the dogs are best at and enjoy. Looking at the type of activities the dogs prefer and how you can develop their skills further helps when we come to match them with someone on our waiting list."

"Our training is reward-based. This is because if we reward a desired behaviour this encourages the dog to repeat that behaviour. We will reward all desired behaviour regardless of whether we're working on social skills or a task."

"A lot of our dogs' training is about teaching them how to problem solve. Once they understand how certain behaviour allows them to work out the problem the dogs are usually much more confident and can logically work through a task."

## 4pm

Training finishes around 4pm and the dogs are given another chance to use the toileting areas. Clare will then help the dog welfare team settle the dogs down for the evening before she leaves to go home at 5pm.



# Can you foster an amazing dog?

We are looking for volunteers who can foster trainee canine partners.

Most foster parents look after a dog for 16 consecutive weekends while it is on its advanced training course at one of our training centres.

However, we also need foster parents that can welcome one of our dogs into their home on a more short-term basis, both at weekends and on a weekday evening.

Foster parents must be over 18, have a secure, dog friendly

garden and live close to our southern training centre in West Sussex or our midlands training centre in North West Leicestershire.

Dogs should be given a chance to relax while they are at their foster home.

Foster parents get full support and all food and equipment is provided.

**For more information or to sign up, visit**  
**[caninepartners.org.uk/foster](http://caninepartners.org.uk/foster)**

# The legacy of a life-changing dog will live on

Canine Partner Harmony filled Sally Hyder's life with fun, cuddles and freedom. Sally, who has MS, was living in constant pain while she watched her mobility and her independence slip away.

The mum-of-three was forced to rely on her daughter and husband for practical support – from picking things up off the floor to taking off her shoes and socks.



But when she met Harmony that all changed – and the eager Labrador cross golden retriever would rush to help with anything Sally needed before her children had the chance, allowing her to be more of a mum again.

The pair were inseparable for seven years – but then Harmony suddenly passed away. Now Sally is applying for a second canine partner who will have big paw prints to fill. She tells her story of love and loss.

**Over the seven glorious years we had together, Harmony and I had developed a wonderful relationship. She knew what I needed and much of her task work was done seamlessly and unspoken.**

Equally I knew what she wanted and needed.

She was nine and we had many years to come.

I watched fellow human partners lose their dogs and was deeply glad that I had time. We had time.

We didn't.

Harmony died suddenly and shockingly, but ultimately peacefully.

She had a massive tumour in her heart.

But that isn't why I'm telling our story.

When you apply for a canine partner you are asked how you think a canine partner can assist you. On my first application it was almost impossible to answer. It was a bit like being offered a meal in a restaurant when you're starving – but without a menu.

But now I know just how many more dogs are needed.

I am bereft and disenfranchised.

For seven years, almost 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Harmony was with me – breathing with me, soothing me, assisting me and giving me energy, bravery and enthusiasm. She was in my mind and I in hers.

Now, eight weeks on and I still forget and call her to come help.

I see a new riverside walk or track and the thought 'Harmony would love this' comes unbidden and too quickly to stop.

So I have no problems saying what a canine partner can do for me – except, how can you put the entwining of souls into words?

With that comes the question of whether I should get another.

To apply seems like a betrayal of all that Harmony meant to me and all that she did for me – to deny my bereavement.

When I mentioned this to a member of Canine Partners' staff she pointed out that Harmony created a legacy – one which the charity would hate to see being lost – to see me slide back into being housebound, reliant on others and sad. And this is happening all too quickly.

So now I am waiting.

I already know exactly what I have lost and what I need.

I need not to have to constantly ask for help, I need not to be dependent. I hate that people have to pick up after me.

Last night I dropped my keys on a dark and scary path and I couldn't find them. I had to get out of my chair and crawl around in the mud before hauling myself back onto my chair, causing untold agony.

I need not to be scared to go out.

Canine Partners puts people who are in need of a successor dog, like me, at the top of the waiting list – a list that is two years long.

That means that I effectively push someone else further down the list.

I feel guilty about that – which is why I'm writing this – to explain why it is even more vital than ever that funds are raised.

More people in partnerships inevitably means more people grieving, bewildered and lost at the top of the list when those initial partnerships come to an end. And that means more consequent pressures at the bottom. That's why I'm urging people to find a way to donate – even if it's only a fiver. It all goes towards helping me and others like me to discover the freedom and lives we are meant to lead.



# Bounding into huge paw prints



**When canine partner Ulli retired after 10 years of service Claire faced the tough decision of whether or not to get another dog. But since she met canine partner Frankland she hasn't looked back.**

Claire Graham was matched to canine partner Ulli in 2005 after realising how much difference an assistance dog could make to her life.

It was love at first sight and the pair became inseparable.

Not only did Ulli help Claire, who has the spinal condition transverse myelitis which affects her mobility, with everyday tasks, including getting dressed, fetching the post and anything she dropped – he also gave her back the confidence to go outside again.

But when the black goldendoodle was becoming too old to continue working and retired at the age of 12 from his role as an assistance dog, Claire had to make a big decision – whether or not to apply for another canine partner.

Although the decision was tough, she had at that point spent 10 years with Ulli, since he was two years old, and she knew the difference that having a working canine partner made to her life and how much more confidence she now had.

"I didn't realise how much I was struggling until Ulli started to help. He boosted my energy levels," said Claire, who is now one of Canine Partners' trustees.

"Also, having to look after Ulli helped improve my health because I was using muscles I hadn't been

using because I was grooming him every day."

But the pair had built such a close bond that she knew that no other dog would ever be the same.

In the end, she decided that she should apply and see if the charity could provide her with the perfect match – a dog that would suit both her and Ulli.

Claire, who used to work for the Bank of Scotland, said: "Ulli worked until he was 12 years old but by that time he had slowed right down.

"When Ulli retired, I knew I couldn't be without a canine partner for any length of time because I knew the difference that having one made to my life. And as Ulli got older and couldn't do so much I realised just how much he had been doing.

"I thought I may as well apply for a successor dog because you never know when a dog will come along but Ulli was my priority.

"It wasn't that much different to apply for a successor dog as it was when I applied for Ulli but this time, when I was asked what difference a canine partner would make to my life I felt I could answer a little better because I knew how much difference Ulli had made.

"I felt disloyal to Ulli but I knew it was the right thing to do and that it was part of the process I had to go through.

"I'm sure a lot of people think a successor dog won't be able to do things like the first. You have to approach it with a clear emotional mindset."

Then Claire and Ulli met black



labradoodle Frankland at the end of 2015 and she knew she had made the right decision.

"We're different from some successor partnerships because I still had Ulli but the two dogs were absolutely fine together and we got into the routine of living as a three," said Claire, 56, from Eastbourne, East Sussex.

"Frankie was respectful of Ulli and they got on like a house on fire. Wherever Ulli went Frankie would follow.

"Ulli had to get used to watching Frankie help me with jobs and I had to leave Ulli behind when I went out with Frankland. It wasn't easy but I had to do it for both Frankie and Ulli's benefit.

"He picked up lots of things just by watching Ulli do them.

"Frankie is as mad as a hatter. He's a very clever boy. He picks things up so quickly. He's cheeky too and so much fun.

"I didn't want another Ulli so I'm pleased at how different they are."

Then Ulli died on the 22nd June 2016 – 10 days before his 13th birthday and six months after two-year-old Frankland moved in.

"When Ulli died it broke my heart. He was one in a million.

"Ulli was irreplaceable but I am lucky that I have been able to have two canine partners. I wouldn't have had it any other way because it's meant I have my Frankie-doodle. I think it was just meant to be."



# Companies and organisations that have gone above and beyond to support us

We are extremely grateful to all of the companies and organisations that continue to support us. Here are just a few of the ways organisations have gone above and beyond to help us in the last year.



**Della**

## Kew Electrical put some spark into our fundraising drive

We have been supported by Geoff Kerly and Kew Electrical since 2007.

Since then, the electrical wholesaler, which has 23 branches in the south of England and Belfast, has generously fundraised for us and they have sponsored nine puppies.

Their sponsored puppies include six-year-old chocolate Labrador Watson, four-year-old Labrador cross golden retriever Martha, two-year-old black Labrador Kingston and most recently, one-year-old golden retriever Della.

Much of the money is raised through staff events and activities including their two annual golf days which sees golfers putt off alongside Nick Poole, one of our volunteers in our fundraising team.



**Forester**

## Foresters Friendly Society choose us as their charity of the year

We were honoured to be chosen as Foresters Friendly Society's charity of the year for 2016 to 2017.

They have so far raised an incredible £30,000 towards their £100,000 target and sponsored a puppy, which they named Forester. They will sponsor Forester throughout his future partnership with a disabled person through our Gift of Independence scheme.

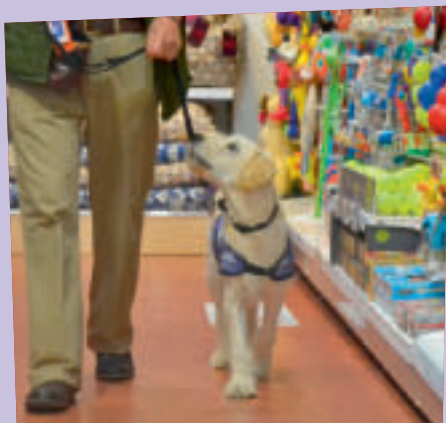
It has been incredibly exciting working with the society, whose members have organised a packed calendar of events including cake sales, quiz nights and a carol service.

They even produced a stunning calendar featuring some of our partnerships and puppies, which was sold over Christmas.

Some of our speakers, demo dogs and fundraising team have attended their annual general meeting and visited some of their branches, known as courts, to show their members how our amazing dogs transform the lives of disabled people.

And it's not over yet – they are hosting a glamorous black tie ball in Bristol in April 2017 as part of the final months of their charity year.

Then, their society's president, Glyn Carpenter and thrill-seeking members will take on the fastest zip wire in the world at Zipworld in Bangor, Wales, while other fearless members take part in a skydive this summer to help raise even more cash.



## Pets Corner's support got our tails wagging

Pets Corner has been supporting us since 2012.

And during these five years they have donated enough to purchase and fully train five assistance dogs, some of which was raised using money from the sale of single-use plastic bags.

The family-run business has held a range of exciting fundraising events including cake sales, face

painting days and they even hosted a charity gig at Three Bridges football club in Crawley featuring live music from three Sussex bands.

Meanwhile, they have encouraged their customers to help us further by putting their change into our collection tins at their 156 stores.

Pets Corner provides additional support to our partnerships and army of volunteer puppy parents, offering them a 10 per cent discount on their purchases.





Goldie

## National Express' fundraising is just the ticket

National Express came on board as supporters in 2014.

Since then they have given their generous customers the opportunity to donate £1 to us when they book their tickets – raising enough to sponsor Goldie the golden retriever.

National Express has sponsored Goldie since 2014 along with her partnership with Caroline Ramcharan from Stoke on Trent in Staffordshire through our Gift of Independence scheme.

They have also covered one of their coaches with our branding including a huge, but cute picture of a Canine Partners puppy.

But their support hasn't stopped there. They also offer free travel to canine partners in training with our volunteer puppy parents to help familiarise them with public transport. And partnerships are offered discounted travel from hundreds of towns, cities and airports across the UK.

## It's puppy love as wilko sponsors a whole pack of assistance pups

Team members from 18 wilko stores have raised more than £43,000.

It comes after the chain's Region 17, which covers Surrey, Hampshire, Sussex and Berkshire, chose us as their regional charity of the year for 2016 to 2017.

The stores put on a host of events for team members and customers including card making and wooden spoon painting workshops, cake sales and staff fancy dress days.

Our partnerships and puppy parents visited some of the stores to check out the events and meet the teams and customers.

The stores' fundraising has seen them sponsor eight puppies so far including Nell, Peter, Quella, Queisha, Tabitha, Tamara, Taz and Tamia, who were all born between June 2016 and January 2017.

Now the region hopes to bring their fundraising total up to £50,000 so that they can sponsor a total of 10 puppies including one which will be called wilko.



## Greggs' support is the icing on the cake

We were thrilled that Greggs chose to support us last year.

The UK's leading bakery food-on-the-go retailer has raised £5,000 to sponsor a puppy which will be named Gregg.

Now they want to continue their fundraising throughout 2017 so that they can cover the costs of the whole of his training and his future partnership with a disabled person through our Gift of Independence scheme.

They also donated lots of sandwiches and cakes for the cream tea tent at our 2016 summer shows at our two training centres – which went down a treat with our visitors.



Your Pet, Our Passion.

## Purina understands that life really is better with pets - that's why Purina PetCare has been helping us for more than 17 years

As one of our longest-standing supporters, Purina has provided us with vital financial support throughout this time, along with gifts in kind.

In 2016, while continuing their commitment to a sustainable long-term partnership, their funding helped us buy new uniforms for our volunteers and improve our IT systems.

Meanwhile, their enthusiastic employees have gone even further to help us by taking part in lots of volunteering opportunities.

Teams from Purina helped us set up marquees and the show ring for our summer show. They then returned to Midhurst for our first Pedal for Paws cycling challenge across the South Downs National

Park to hand out snacks and help cheer cyclists on.

And Purina's northern region financial director Paul Vernon visited our midlands training centre where he met Kate Cross and her canine partner May and saw how we are developing the site.

Some of our partnerships and demonstration dogs also joined Purina at their Gatwick head office in November to help celebrate the second anniversary of their Pets at Work scheme, which sees lots of their employees bring their pet dogs into the office with them.

Last but definitely not least, our assistance dogs in training were given a special treat at Christmas when Purina employees made them some special edible Bonio wreaths during a festive workshop.

We're looking forward to working together in 2017.

# NEWS AND EVENTS

**Our supporters have been extremely busy – bringing us another fun-filled year packed with fantastic events.**

**And it has all helped us raise essential funds so that we can continue training our clever assistance dogs.**

**There have been too many remarkable fundraising and awareness boosting events to squeeze onto this page and we are extremely grateful to everyone that has taken part or helped organise something.**

**Here are just a few that have taken place during the last 12 months.**

## Singing with the stars

The fifth annual Draycott Carol Service helped hundreds of people bring in the festivities while helping to raise more than £10,000 for Canine Partners.

The event at St Mary Abbots Parish Church in Kensington, London, on the 15th December was organised by Angela Hamlin, founder and managing director of Draycott Nursing & Care, one of our long-standing supporters.

We were joined by our patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCV, writer and entertainer Pam Ayres MBE, former Blue Peter presenter Valerie Singleton and actors Rula Lenksa, Tim McMullan and Jack Fox, a member of the Fox family dynasty.

The congregation had the chance to watch a team of 14 demo dogs show off some of their skills which can transform the lives of disabled people.



They also heard from partnerships about the difference their dogs have made. Partnerships that represented us at the event included Jo Hill and Derby, Natalie Preston and Faye, Jackie Kennedy and Kingston and Rosemary Pocock and Quintus.



## People dug deep to help others at Christmas

We were given a challenge bigger than any fundraising challenge we had ever taken on before.

We had to raise £25,000 – and we had just 72 hours to do it.

For every penny we could raise, the cash would be matchfunded by The Clive and Sylvia Richards Charity.

Thanks to hundreds of generous supporters we smashed it – raising a whopping £64,453 between the 29th November and the 2nd December.

This is enough to purchase and fund all of the training for six amazing assistance dogs with enough cash spare to purchase a seventh puppy and start its puppy training.

## Going back to school to show how a dog can change a life

We went to The Education Show where we spoke to teachers and educators about the difference our dogs make to disabled people's lives.

It was the first time we had attended the show at the NEC in Birmingham, which gave us a chance to promote our work and offer schools the chance to have a visit from one of our speakers.

Our demo dogs, speakers and partnerships regularly visit schools, clubs and organisations across the UK to show the young and young-at-heart some of the skills our assistance dogs learn. These skills enable them to help disabled people with everyday tasks while giving them back their confidence and independence.

In particular, it is a chance for children to learn about living with disabilities, widening their view of the world.

If your organisation, school or club would like a visit from one of our demo dogs, speakers or partnerships, go to [caninepartners.org.uk/bookatalk](http://caninepartners.org.uk/bookatalk)





## Rugby star Chris Robshaw gave Canine Partners his full backing during his testimonial year

England rugby star Chris Robshaw selected us as one of his supported charities as he celebrated a decade since starting his professional career.

The Harlequins flanker, who has played 67 tests for England, launched his testimonial year with a glamorous event at Coutts Bank in London in January.

The evening was followed by a range of events including a dinner at Twickenham Changing Rooms, a golf day at Goodwood, a clay shoot at West Wycombe Estate, a festival of rugby and a touch rugby series across London. There was also a gala dinner at The Roundhouse in London and finally a black tie dinner at Old Billingsgate which was attended by partnerships

including Sally Whitney and Ethan.

Chris also visited our southern training centre where he met lots of our dogs and people.

His testimonial year also helped raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust and Walking with the Wounded.

The final total Chris Robshaw raised for Canine Partners will be announced later in 2017.

## One of the south's top beauty spots was awash with cyclists as we hosted our first cycling event.

Pedal for Paws saw more than one hundred people get on their bikes, raising more than £5,000.

The 16, 29 and 52-mile routes took the cyclists through the South Downs National Park from our southern training centre in Midhurst on the 9th October.

Participants included Invictus Games gold medallist and former RAF aircraftsman Mike Goody who is known as the UK's 'prince of the pool'.



After the success of the inaugural event, we are now organising two Pedal for Paws cycling events in 2017 – one at each of our training centres.

## Pounding the streets and climbing sky-high for a special puppy named Olly

Our staff and volunteers have also been busy raising money this year.

Among those who have gone above and beyond is fundraising director Anne Yendell who flew 3,441 miles to the United States to take part in the New York Marathon.

The 26.2 mile running event helped raise more than £11,000, smashing Anne's target of £5,000 and allowing her to name a canine partner puppy after her son Olly who sadly died last year.

The marathon was particularly poignant as it took place just days after what would have been his 23rd birthday in a city that was close to his heart.

But Anne, who joined Canine Partners in October 2015, hasn't stopped there. On the 10th March, the anniversary of Olly's death, she climbed 1,344 metres to the summit of Britain's tallest mountain, Ben Nevis, in a bid to reach her new fundraising target of £20,000.

This would allow her to fund a whole partnership, including purchasing and naming 'Olly' the puppy, his training and then his partnership with the disabled person he will eventually be matched with.

To support Anne with her fundraising challenge visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/Anne-Yendell3](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/Anne-Yendell3)



# Exciting events for 2017



There will be even more thrilling opportunities to raise much-needed funds this year with our calendar of events.

For more information or to sign up for any of our events, call Sian Wilson on 01730 716110, email [sianw@caninepartners.org.uk](mailto:sianw@caninepartners.org.uk) or visit [caninepartners.org.uk](http://caninepartners.org.uk)

## On our bikes to soak up some history



It's a once in a lifetime challenge to pedal across the continent and explore some of Europe's top historical sites.

We're packing our bags and getting on our bikes for an exciting cycling challenge from London to Paris.

The brave cyclists will take on the mammoth journey across the channel – pedalling 270 miles to the French capital.

The group will meet in London on the 14th September before making their way through the spectacular British countryside towards Dover where they will get on a ferry to Calais.

During the next three days they will cycle from Calais to the historic town of Arras and then on to Compiègne Forest, known as the site where the Armistices were signed ending both the First and Second World Wars.

The final furlong will take the cyclists into the capital city, past

the Arc de Triomphe and on to the Eiffel Tower where they will get a well-earned rest and a chance for some sightseeing before heading back to London on the Eurostar.

But before we brush up on our French, we're looking for up to 16 keen and enthusiastic cyclists to join us on the adventure and raise money.

The trip, which runs from the 14th to 18th September, costs £500 per person (including a deposit of £250 to be paid on registration) and each participant is asked to raise a further £500 which will help us transform even more lives with our amazing dogs.

## A glamorous dinner to support life-changing partnerships



**Canine Partners are hosting an exclusive evening at the stunning Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire.**

Guests on arrival will be welcomed into the breath-taking regency house with a drinks reception held in the beautiful Guard's Room from 6.30pm on the 3rd November.

The castle's impressive gallery staircase will lead guests to join a specially organised private tour of some of the outstanding stately rooms, such as the picture gallery and the Elizabeth Saloon, both important parts of the castle.

After the tour, guests will enjoy a delicious three-course meal in the state dining room.

The evening will also include an after-dinner speaker and a talk from one of our inspirational partnerships, a live auction and a demonstration from one of our demo dogs showcasing some of the skills our amazing dogs have that help their disabled partners.

Tickets cost £75. For more information or to book call **Sian Wilson** on 01730 716110, email [sianw@caninepartners.org.uk](mailto:sianw@caninepartners.org.uk) or visit [caninepartners.org.uk/belvoircastle](http://caninepartners.org.uk/belvoircastle)





## One giant leap

**A team of 60 are preparing to take on Britain's highest freefall abseil to raise vital money to help us train even more of our amazing dogs. Among them will be our vice patron Tita Lady Kindersley.**

She has been a devoted supporter for nearly three decades.

But now Tita will bravely go where no one from Canine Partners has gone before and take on a challenge of a lifetime.

She will take one giant leap from the top of Britain's largest sculpture to help us raise vital money.

Tita, a grandmother-of-16, from

Shipbourne, Kent was one of the first people to sign up for our London abseiling challenge which will see a team of 60 fearless fundraisers take on the UK's highest freefall abseil.

They will drop from the top of the UK's tallest sculpture, the ArcelorMittal Orbit which towers 114.5 metres above Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park – home of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Any of our trepid free-fall fundraisers that dare to look down will be treated to breath-taking panoramic views, spanning 20-miles across the capital city.

The abseil is one of hundreds of fundraising events Tita has been a part of, having supported us since we were founded in Steep Marsh in Hampshire in 1990.

Tita first heard about us through her late husband Lord Kindersley who died in 2013.

Hugo Kindersley was Chair of The Smiths Charity which was one of our first supporters.

And once he retired from the position, both Hugo and Tita were keen to continue helping us raise money to train our life-changing assistance dogs.

The couple became vice patrons of Canine Partners and over the years they generously fundraised, sponsoring five dogs including 'Tita' the brood bitch and 'Hugo', who is currently in advanced training at our midlands training centre.

And when she's not raising money, Tita and her pet black Labrador Flint are often seen helping at our partnership ceremonies and our stands at events including Crufts.

But now she is taking her fundraising efforts to new heights as she prepares for her first abseil, alongside her friend Christina Wellesley-Smith.

Tita said: "My friends think I'm mad for signing up but I think Canine Partners is such an amazing charity and it's a new way of raising money for them, so I'm going to have a go."

"I'm not looking forward to getting over the lip at the top, but I think it'll be fun once I'm on my way down."



"Hugo and I have always had black Labradors and we love dogs, so when we first heard about how Canine Partners were training these amazing dogs to help people who really needed them, it touched our hearts."

**To support Tita with her fundraising challenge, visit [justgiving.com/TitaKindersley](https://justgiving.com/TitaKindersley)**



The freefall from the ArcelorMittal Orbit was sponsored by Arbuthnot Latham which has chosen us as their charity of the year.

As places filled so quickly for this initial event we are considering returning to take on Britain's highest freefall abseil again in the near future.

Anyone that is interested in taking part on a future date can contact **Sian Wilson** on **01730 716110**, email **[sianw@caninepartners.org.uk](mailto:sianw@caninepartners.org.uk)**

# WHAT'S ON

## Getting to know us at our information sessions open to all



**18th May** – The ArcelorMittal Orbit abseil in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London

**14th-18th Sept** – Join us on a cycling challenge from London to Paris

**1st Oct** – Pedal for Paws bike ride returns to the South Downs National Park

**8th Oct** – We host our first Pedal for Paws bike ride from our midlands training centre

**3rd Nov** – Join us for a glamorous black tie dinner at Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire

**14th Dec** – Help us see in Christmas as Draycott Carol Service returns

You will have the chance to watch a demonstration of some of the life-changing skills our assistance dogs learn so that they can support the disabled people they are partnered with.

You can also watch a short film and listen to a talk from one of our partners.

### Dates for the southern training centre in Mill Lane, Heyshott, West Sussex are:

11am and 2pm on the 11th May

11am and 2pm on the 13th June

2pm and 7pm on the 26th July

11am and 2pm on the 19th September

### Dates for the midlands training centre in Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire are:

11am and 2pm on the 24th May

11am and 2pm on the 27th July

11am and 2pm on the 21st September

11am and 2pm on the 11th October

For more information or to book, email [education@caninepartners.org.uk](mailto:education@caninepartners.org.uk) or visit [caninepartners.org.uk/informationssessions](http://caninepartners.org.uk/informationssessions)

## Our Pedal for Paws cycling challenge is back for 2017

We are hosting this not once, but twice, to give even more people of all levels and abilities the chance to take part.

It comes after the success of our first Pedal for Paws event from our southern training centre last October which raised more than £5,000 – enough to purchase a puppy and pay for its initial training.

Now the challenge is back – and this year we will be hosting the challenge from both our southern and midlands training centres.

We hope this will give even more people the chance to get on their bikes and raise vital funds to help us create even more life changing partnerships.

Cyclists will get the choice of a 29 or 52-mile route at both events, each bursting with spectacular views across the countryside.

The challenge will take place from the southern training centre on the 1st October and from the midlands training centre on the 8th October.

For more information visit [caninepartners.org.uk/pedalforpaws](http://caninepartners.org.uk/pedalforpaws)





# Transform a life by leaving a gift in your will

**It's a lasting gift that could change someone's life forever.**

**More and more people are choosing to leave a gift to us in their wills – leaving a positive legacy that can make a huge difference to someone else.**

**Every penny that is left to us will be spent creating and maintaining partnerships between disabled people and our amazing life-changing dogs.**

**Among our generous supporters who have included us in their wills is Maggie Carter.**

Maggie heard about Canine Partners in 2002 when she took her German Shepherd Halle to Cobham Dog Training Club, which is one of our supporters.

After learning about our life-changing dogs she was keen to help and over the last 15 years Maggie has raised thousands of pounds for the charity.

She has held fundraising parties, car boot sales and asked friends and neighbours to donate to us in return for looking after their homes and pets while they were on holiday and offered lifts to hospitals and airports.

Maggie, who is 70 and lives in Great Bookham, has even sponsored one of our dogs while it was being trained and she continues to sponsor two puppies under our My Amazing Puppy scheme as well as encouraging many of her friends to support us too.

But now she has taken her support to the next level by stating in her will that she would like to donate to us after she has passed away.

Maggie, who has been an animal lover all of her life said: "I don't have any children and I have a house, so I decided I would like to leave it to Canine Partners and to Dogs Trust.

"I have seen how much a canine partner improves the quality of life for people with disabilities.

"Many of the people Canine Partners supports have found themselves in a situation where they can no longer lead an independent life.

"However with an assistance dog they can socialise, enjoy activities that interest them and possibly return to work.

"The charity helps others that don't have the independence that I do, to be able to return to work, to socialise and be able to get out of their four walls and enjoy other activities they are interested in.

"I have lived on my own and I can appreciate how much benefit it can be to have a wonderful dog as a friend and companion.

"It is important to make provision for one's family but if anyone feels that they can find it in their heart

to leave anything, however big or small, to improve somebody else's quality of life, that would be a wonderful gift."

Maggie is planning to hold another car boot sale this summer to raise more funds for us.

**We appreciate every donation that is left to us – both within a person's lifetime and in a will.**

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift to us call **01730 716108** or email **legacies@caninepartners.org.uk**

**People can also give us a gift in memory of a loved one.**

A gift of £5,000 or more could sponsor a puppy in someone's name – allowing their memory to live on while the dog grows up to give someone back their independence.



## We believe pets and people are better together.

At Purina®, we've always been a company of pet experts and pet lovers. Our commitment to pets includes helping advance pet nutrition, championing the role of pets in society, and sharing free advice through our dedicated Pet Care team. We've been proud supporters of Canine Partners since 2001. Like them, we know just how transformational your relationship with your pet can be - and how much love and joy that can bring to your life.

Follow us on Twitter @PurinaUK and our Facebook page: Purina UK & Ireland for latest news, browse our website [purina.co.uk](https://www.purina.co.uk) or give us a call on 0800 212 161 (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm).

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