



**FRIENDS OF
WALLACE KENNELS**
Registered Charity No. 1098016



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NEWSLETTER No.87 FEBRUARY 2016

In my last newsletter my appeal for help with our frequent jumble sales brought forward a very few volunteers but sufficient to alter my mind about carrying on with them so further ones have been booked (see dates below). **Further help is still required to make collections outside Sainsbury's in Ongar as we have lost one or two of the regulars. It is only for an hour and a half on one Saturday a month from April until September. PLEASE contact me on 01277 821737 if you are willing to help, even one attendance would help.**

A further plea is for a **volunteer to be our Secretary** from May as Margaret Wade, who has been in the job for many years in a most efficient manner, is standing down.

Many thanks to all who sold tickets for our annual raffle which was very successful and raised £1,147. We held the draw at the local pub, The Bricklayers Arms, Stondon Massey and it's amazing how many tickets are sold at the bar (especially after a few drinks). The first prize of £100 (ticket 3651) was donated to Wallace Kennels. The second prize of £50 (ticket 2782) was won by Julia Coles who also kindly donated the winnings to the Kennels. The third money prize was won by Helen Harman. £15 of gift vouchers went to L.Turrel (3789) and further prizes of drink, toiletries etc. were won on tickets nos. 1346, 3698, 545, 2121, 3481, 3257, 3918 and 344.

The January jumble brought in over £2,000 - an excellent result helped by the lack of competition from other jumbles, boot fairs etc. Many thanks to the helpers who help it all go with a swing. Unfortunately they were unable to prevent the usual thieving! The September dog walk brought in £3,380 and again we give thanks to Jackie and Peter for marking out the course and taking down the direction signs afterwards. Thanks also to the helpers on the stalls.

Even more thanks! To those members who make regular donations direct to our bank account as well as those who sent Christmas donations. The kennels are doing well rehoming thanks somewhat to Dee Robinson's excellent website (wallacekennels.com) and Facebook. Fortunately the winter has so far been fairly mild and the excellent team of dog walkers ensure that every dog gets taken out every day of the year except Christmas Day.

There are still several existing members who have not returned their annual membership renewal forms and further copies of these are attached.

Cynthia and I are now without a dog and we have resisted the temptation to take on replacements (we think we are too old to make the commitment). One of our latest two dogs was Luke, a lurcher who had lost all willingness to go out for a walk. His rear legs refused to get him round the house.

Our other dog was Annie, who we took on at the age of four months when she had been taken on and rejected by two previous owners and, despite being over 17 years old, she was always willing to walk but got slower. She had had many journeys to the vet over the years including having a broken leg caused by a car accident and latterly treatment for a stomach disorder which caused regular sickness and obvious pain. Although we were offered a course of treatment which would have meant internal investigations we had to make that dreaded decision as to whether or not to put her through it. I am sure that most of you have made such decisions over the years. We have been sent the following poem which is very appropriate and I guess it will bring a tear to many of your eyes.

IF IT SHOULD BE

If it should be I grow frail and weak,
And pain should wake me from my sleep,
Then you must do what must be done,
For this last battle can't be won.
You will be sad, I understand,
Don't let this grief then stay your hand,
Your love and friendship stand the test.
We've had so many happy years,
What is to come will hold no fears.
You'll not want me to suffer, so,
When the time comes please let me go.
I know in time you too will see,
It is a kindness you do to me.
Although my tail its last has waved,
From pain and suffering I've been saved.
Do not grieve that it should be you,
Who has to decide this thing to do.
We've been so close, we two these years,
Don't let your heart hold any tears.

Jumble Sales at Doddinghurst Village Hall 10am to noon
March 19th, May 7th, July 23rd, September 10th and November 26th.

May Fayre: Doddinghurst Village Hall 2nd May 10am to 1pm.

AGM: Wednesday 25th May 2016, 7.15pm for 7.30pm, Shenfield Parish Hall, CM15 8LB.

Sainsbury's Collections: Apr.30th, May 28th, June 18th, July 9th, Aug 20th, Sept 17th.