

ITS BEEN A WONDERFUL 2017... THANK YOU

I took over as Chair of Greyhound Trust Hall Green this year from Simon Gray, and had a hard act to follow.

There were plenty of challenges for us with the closure of Hall Green Stadium and the hounds that would require homing from that closure, as well as the loss of £18,000 a year in sponsorship and donations that the Stadium brought to the Branch.

The dedication of all the kennel Lead Volunteers, Assistant Lead Volunteers, Awareness volunteers, Volunteer Walkers, Hound Sponsors, Donators, Knitters, FB followers and supporters is priceless, as well as the endless help and support of Broadmarsh and Watford Gap Kennel owners and staff, Branches of the Greyhound Trust, other Greyhound Charities and of course Head Office.

There is of course great thanks to the many companies who have helped ease the burden on the Branch by helping us with awareness events including The Big Pet Store, Pets at Home Stores, Just for Pets, Pets Corner, Webbs Garden Centres and the many events the Branch has been invited to, including the National Pet Show at the NEC, The Pet Show Stafford Show Ground and of course representing The Greyhound Trust at Crufts along with other Branches.

Every branch of the Greyhound Trust whether they home 1 or 101 along with the many Greyhound Charities across the country, Europe and the world can only do the work they do if there are people out there willing to give this breed a chance. With so many greyhounds being retired or finishing their racing career there is a desperate need for more people to consider homing a greyhound, rather than spending thousand's of pounds elsewhere. For just a donation, you can, with patience and a willingness to work with this breed, end up with the most loving of pets who will give you their heart and soul, for a soft bed and a gentle walk.

There can be homing challenges with the breed sometimes, but anyone who homes a pet knows this, and we as a Branch of the Greyhound Trust Charity as well as the many Branches across the Country are there to help people in their journey with this breed.

I am proud to tell you that we homed our last greyhound of 2017 today... which means our final homings in 2017 was 191, this among the many successes of other Greyhound Trust Branches and Charities means that there are many Greyhounds in loving homes tonight however, there are many who were not so lucky and many who still need to find homes... so, as we finish 2017, we start all over again in 2018.

With the publication of injury and retirement data sure to change the dynamic throughout the greyhound world in 2018, and wider animal welfare community. The Greyhound Trust will be keeping all the branches and volunteers updated on this throughout the coming months to come, and we as a Branch will do everything in our power to ensure the hounds we are responsible for are well looked after until they find that "forever" home they are looking for.

There has been a lot of happiness throughout the year, where we have had some amazing people home hounds, as well as sadness for those whose circumstances have meant they have had to return them or have lost their beloved pets to Rainbow Bridge. At every turn Hall Green volunteers have been there to support.

Our thoughts must turn to Pearce and Tracey Wilkinson's family as they start 2018 without them as well as Tracy Page's family, but all can be safe in the knowledge that Hall Green will be there for them and Mandy the hound as time moves on.

We start 2018 in the new Charity colours, and our aim remains the same... to home as many greyhounds as we can in the year to come... with your support.

I have never been so proud to be part of a "Family" who will go that extra mile to support the work of this Branch and the Greyhound Trust in general.

Thank you on behalf of the Committee of Hall Green and the volunteers for your kindness, generosity and thought.

I wish you all a VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR... and do hope as many of you as possible will try and make one of our many events in 2018.

Tracey Parbery
Volunteer and Chair
Greyhound Trust Hall Green