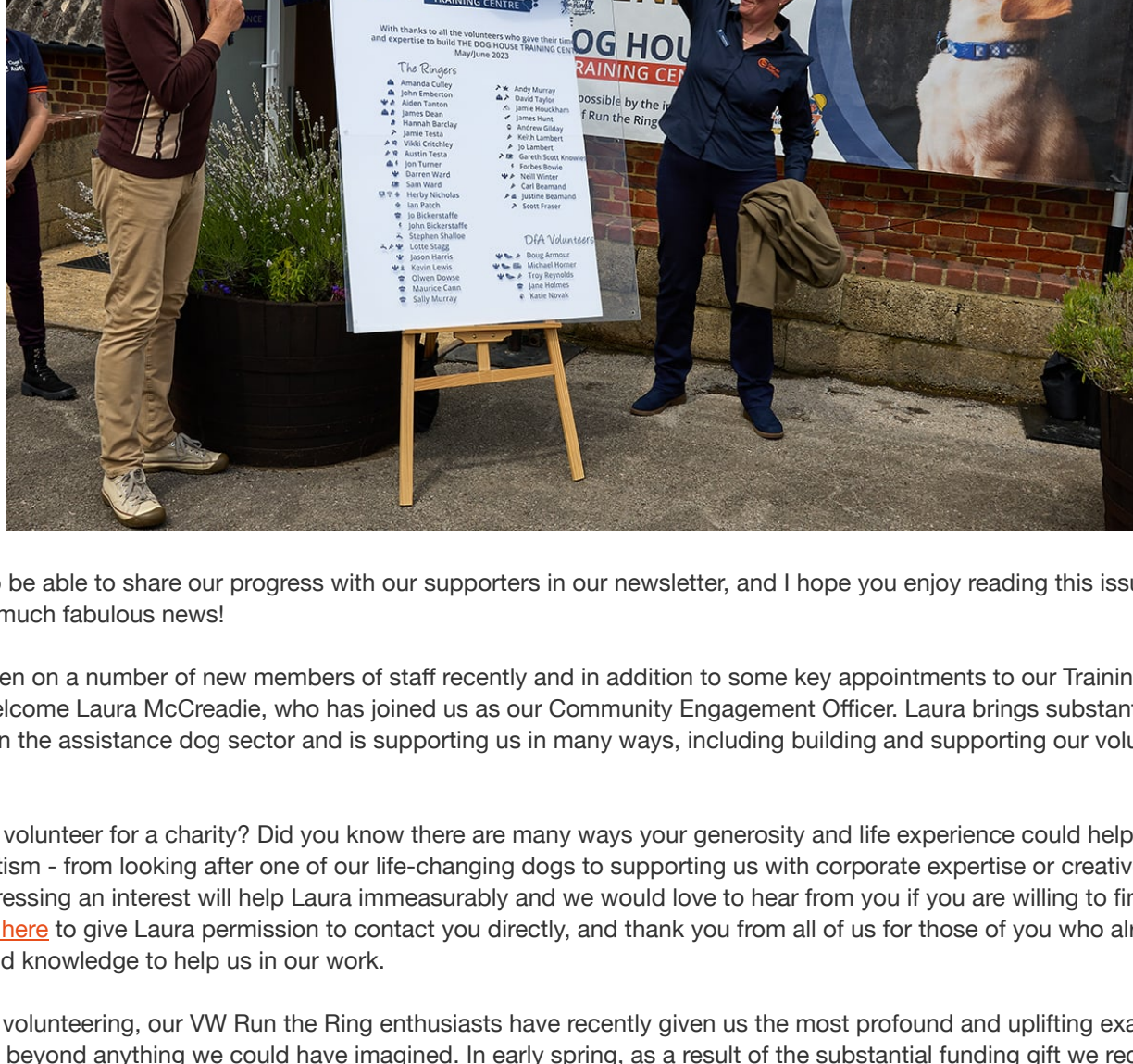


## A word from our CEO



It is lovely to be able to share our progress with our supporters in our newsletter, and I hope you enjoy reading this issue, in which we have so much fabulous news!

We have taken on a number of new members of staff recently and in addition to some key appointments to our Training Centre team, we welcome Laura McCreadie, who has joined us as our Community Engagement Officer. Laura brings substantial experience in the assistance dog sector and is supporting us in many ways, including building and supporting our volunteer network.

Do you ever volunteer for a charity? Did you know there are many ways your generosity and life experience could help us here at Dogs for Autism - from looking after one of our life-changing dogs to supporting us with corporate expertise or creative talent? Our readers expressing an interest will help Laura immeasurably and we would love to hear from you if you are willing to find out more. Please [click here](#) to give Laura permission to contact you directly, and thank you from all of us for those of you who already give of your time and knowledge to help us in our work.

Speaking of volunteering, our VW Run the Ring enthusiasts have recently given us the most profound and uplifting example of volunteering beyond anything we could have imagined. In early spring, as a result of the substantial funding gift we received from the [Jingle Jam](#), we were in a position to sign the lease on a building next door to our offices here at the Lavender Fields in Seiborne, with the intention of creating a training space for our newly centralised training model. The Jingle Jam funding gave us the wherewithal to take on the long term commitment of this important step, however we needed to look for additional funding to renovate the space. We had just been approached by 'Run the Ring', a fundraising group of VW drivers who had chosen us as their charity of the year, the main event for this being a thousand strong VW cruise around the M25. If you fancy joining the DfA team on one of the bridges to cheer on the drivers [please get in touch with us](#) - it will be an epic day of fun!

John Emberton, founder of the group, asked if there was any other support the 'ringers' could give us, and I rather tongue-in-cheek mentioned that our new training centre could do with a make-over! He arrived the next day with a notebook and a pencil behind his ear to 'take a look' and the ensuing events and the outcome were utterly extraordinary... A group of more than 40 tradespeople and a support team over three weekends totally transformed the centre. The entire project was managed and fully funded by them. Our patron Chris Packham officially opened the centre on July 23rd, filmed and reported on by [BBC South Today](#). We have been incredibly lucky to have met this inspiring team and can't wait to join them on the 24th. I hope you enjoy perusing all the images of the 'In the Dog House' project later in the newsletter.

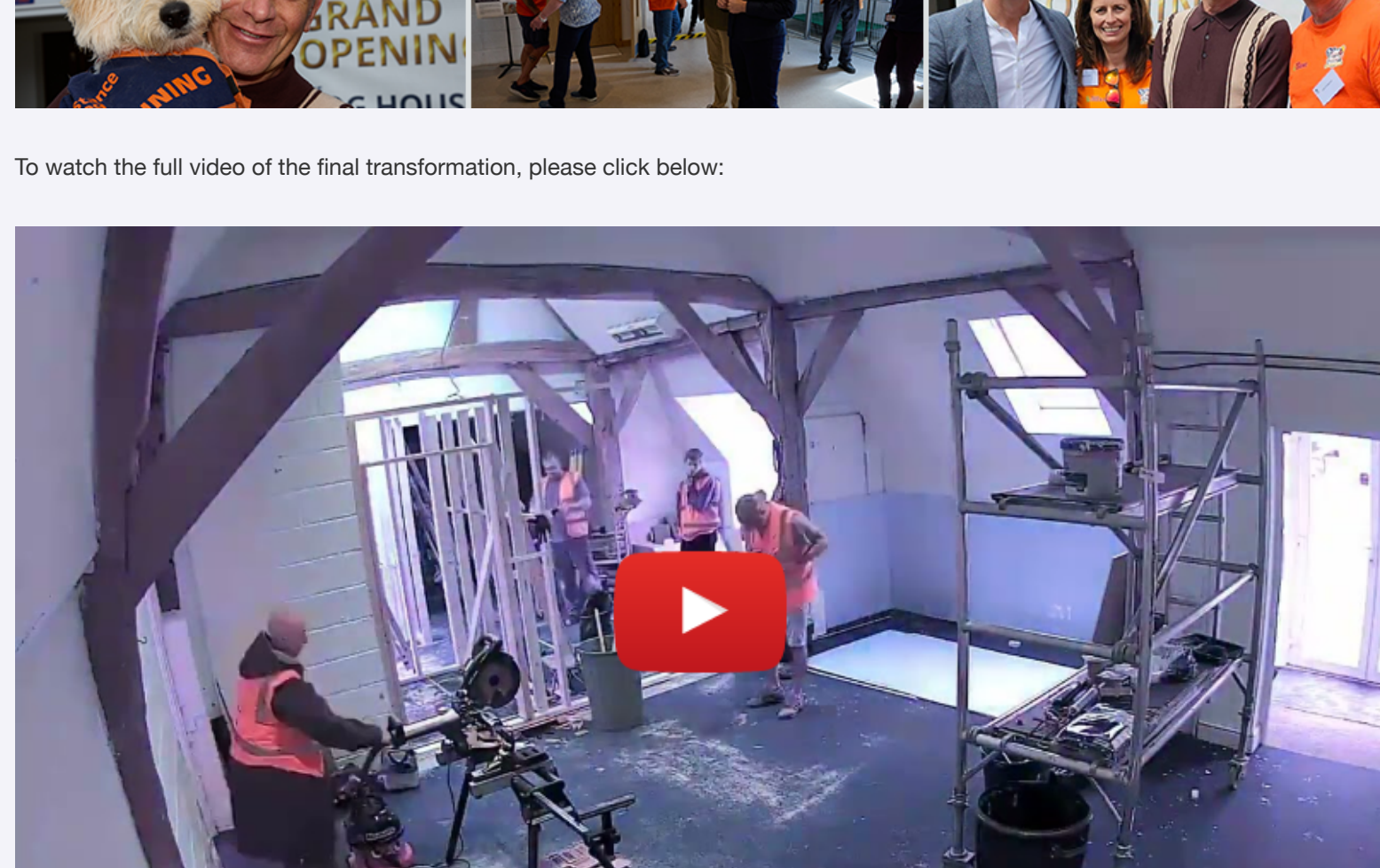
It just goes to show how the innovation, creativity and willingness of ordinary people with extraordinary vision can have a profound impact on the work we can do. Both the Jingle Jam and Run the Ring fundraising initiatives are phenomenal and were started in this way - and just look what it has meant for us! 'Thank-you' doesn't seem to cover it!

*Laura McCreadie*

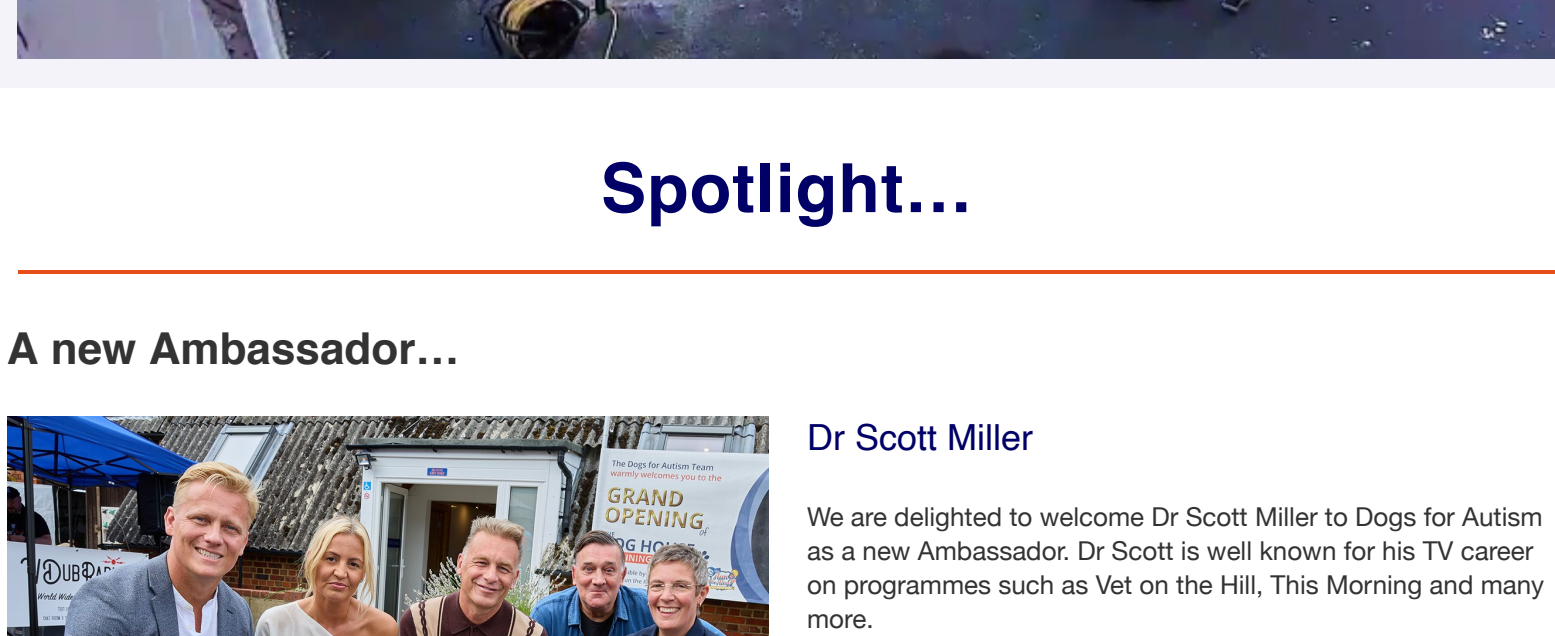
## Funding Highlight

### Run the Ring 7 - 'In the Dog House'

A picture tells 1000 words... take a look at the transformation of our new training centre over a staggeringly short three weekends. We are so grateful to this phenomenal group for their efforts on our behalf. We were so proud to show it off during our opening ceremony in July.

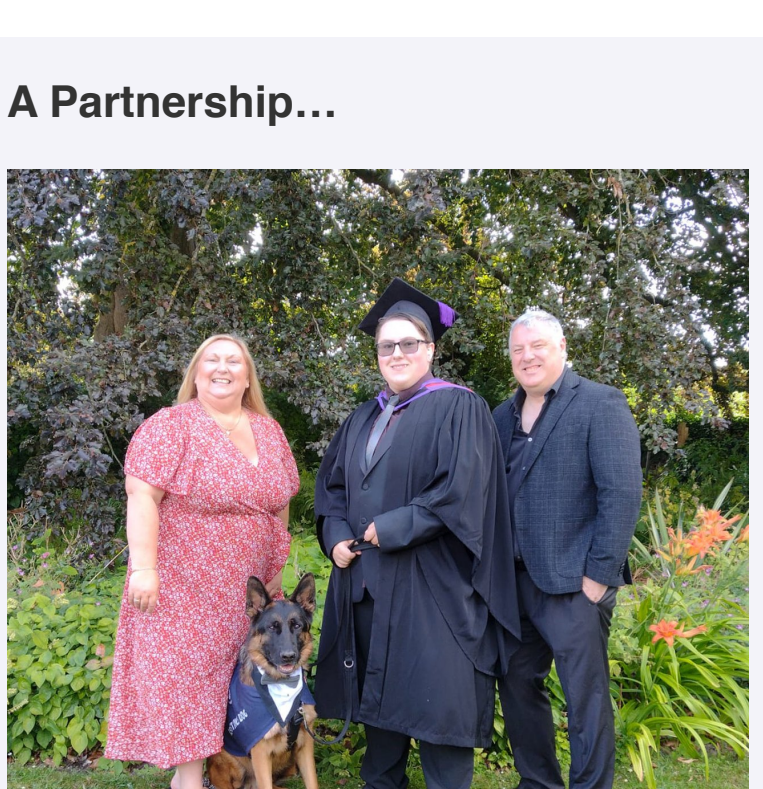


To watch the full video of the final transformation, please click below:



## Spotlight...

### A new Ambassador...



#### Dr Scott Miller

We are delighted to welcome Dr Scott Miller to Dogs for Autism as a new Ambassador. Dr Scott is well known for his TV career on programmes such as *Vet on the Hill*, *This Morning* and many more.

Dr Scott has recently had his own autism diagnosis, and is also father to two autistic children. With over 25 years in the veterinary profession and his inside knowledge of autism, he is a perfect fit for our charity.

We were pleased to welcome Dr Scott and his daughter to our recent 'Grand Opening' and are grateful that he found the time to join us so soon after coming on board. He can be seen here with Patron, Chris Packham, our CEO, and two of our other Ambassadors, Carly Jones, MBE and Stephen Brooker.

### A Partnership...



#### Sam and Max

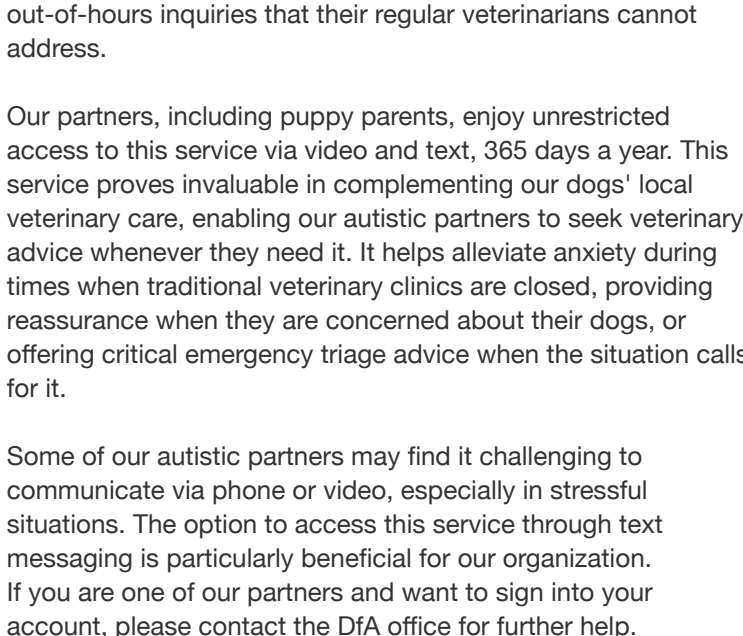
Max is a 3 year old German Shepherd who lives with his partner, Sam.

Max has helped Sam attend further education and continues to support him. Recently, Sam and Max were invited to attend our training centre opening event and were star guests, everyone here at DfA is pleased at how well Sam and Max are doing. Max also accompanied Sam at his graduation.

#### Max fun facts:

**Age:** 3 years 11 months  
**Breed:** German Shepherd  
**Graduated:** September 2022  
**Favourite Walk:** Going out with his mates... Tia & Albie  
**Favourite Food:** Chicken & Sausage and the odd pigs ear 🐷  
**Favourite Activity:** Watching Sam rock climb  
**Latest Achievement:** Star of the show at Sam's graduation & attending Dogs for Autism's training centre opening event with Sam.

## On Styles and Associates...



Styles and Associates, who very kindly have chosen us to be their charity of the year for 2023, held an incredibly successful Race Evening on Friday 21st July at the Alton Rugby Club, where Jan Kiley accompanied by her beautiful Ambassador Maddy gave a brief talk about the work of Dogs for Autism before the excitement of the race night started. This was a resounding success resulting with the most amazing donation of £2,255, which was presented to us on August 17th and accepted by the beautifully posed Buzzy.

## On Corporate Partnerships



Supporting DfA with 24-hour access to qualified online vet services.

For more than 18 months, VidiVet has been a generous charity partner and supporter of DfA, offering a valuable service: free 24/7 access to a UK-qualified online veterinary service. VidiVet frequently comes to the aid of our partners when they encounter out-of-hours inquiries that their regular veterinarians cannot address.

Our partners, including puppy parents, enjoy unrestricted access to this service via video and text, 365 days a year. This service proves invaluable in assisting our dogs' local veterinary care, enabling our autistic partners to seek veterinary advice whenever they need it. It helps alleviate anxiety during times when traditional veterinary clinics are closed, providing reassurance when they are concerned about their dogs, or offering critical emergency triage advice when the situation calls for it.

Some of our autistic partners may find it challenging to communicate via phone or video, especially in stressful situations. The option to access this service through text messaging is particularly beneficial for our organization. If you are one of our partners and want to sign into your account, please contact the DfA office for further help.

For more information or to sign up to this service, please visit their website: <https://vidivet.com/>



The walking app that turns your everyday walks into charity donations and more!

If you haven't already done so, check out the trundl app the next time you head outdoors. trundl is a walking app that improves your personal health, helps you track your distances and most importantly supports charities and outdoor mobility causes across the UK. By loading the app on your phone and pressing GO, you can turn any walk into donations for DfA, trundl and their brand partners make donations for each step taken, whether that's a daily dog walk or a hop around the shops; no walk is too small for a trundl donation. What's more, by opting to press the CO<sub>2</sub> Saver in the app, members can track how they're helping the planet. For every 500kg of CO<sub>2</sub> that is collectively 'saved' in the app, trundl pledges to help plant an urban school orchard and hedgerow with [The Tree Council](#). These initiatives reverberate for years beyond the initial planting, teaching cohorts of children about nature conservation, healthy outdoor activities and food origins.

So next time you fancy a dog walk, head to the app store and search for trundl, as you'll be exercising your kindness and helping the planet all in one step.

For those who want to join us, the next Dogs for Autism trundl will run in October from 10<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> and will also be kindly sponsored by Oscar Pet Foods.

Download the app to view your CO<sub>2</sub> saver impact [here](#).

## Fundraising and Campaigns

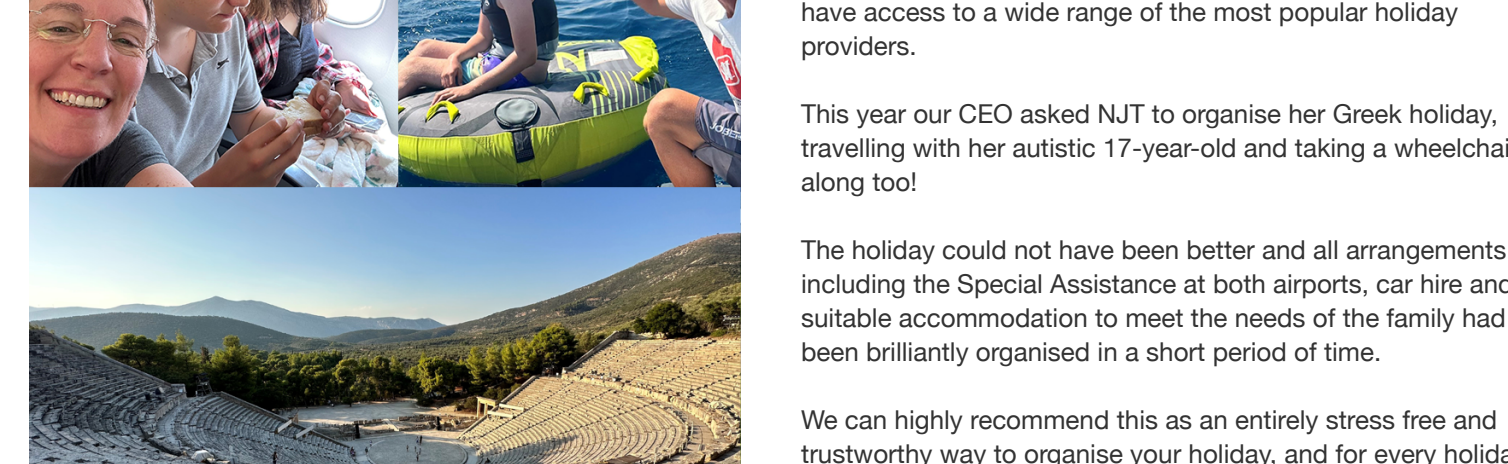
### Community Fundraising...



#### Walk a Golden Mile

Our annual DfA dog walk of one half weekend in the July was accompanied by some glorious weather, and the whole event was truly uplifted as our Sponsors Oscars teamed up with charity partners trundl to launch our first collaborative annual fundraiser.

Everyone who signed up for this year's event was given a 'free gift' by DfA, one month's free subscription to the brilliant trundl app and a number of Oscar franchisees organised walks in different parts of the UK. It tied in beautifully with a 'community trundl' and it was lovely to see the pictures rolling in of dogs all over the country sporting their #WAGM 2023 bandannas and enjoying a special walk on our behalf. We are looking forward to seeing this campaign grow over the coming years through this great collaboration.



#### NJT Charity Partnership

So many of us book our holidays online now, but Not Just Travel with James and Natasha are a travel consultancy who can take care of every part of booking your holiday for you and have access to a wide range of the most popular holiday providers.

This year our CEO asked NJT to organise her Greek holiday, travelling with her autistic 17-year-old and taking a wheelchair along too!

The holiday could not have been better and all arrangements, including the Special Assistance at both airports, car hire and suitable accommodation to meet the needs of the family had been brilliantly organised in a short period of time.

We can highly recommend this as an entirely stress free and trustworthy way to organise your holiday, and for every holiday booked through NJT the charity receives a donation from the company!

To find out more follow [this link](#) to a page dedicated to our the DfA NJT partnership.

#### Haskins - Forest Lodge - Farnham

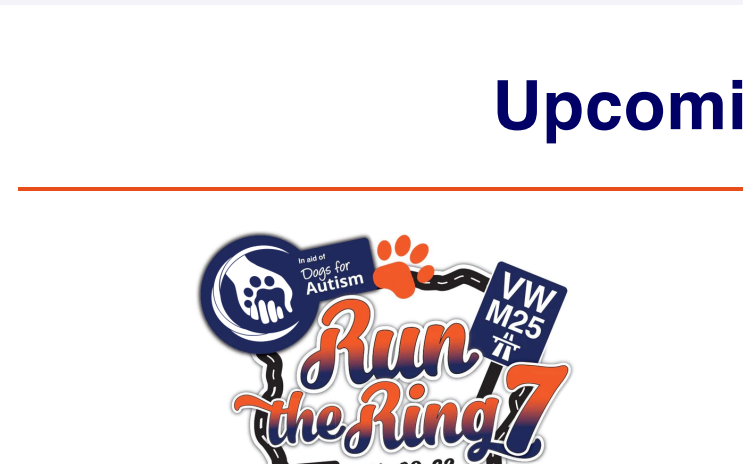
We are absolutely delighted to share the news that our local Haskins Garden Centre Branch near Farnham, Surrey who supported us last year have chosen us again as their nominated Charity of the Year.

Once a month the puppy training team visit the store to train some of our youngest pups, getting them accustomed to the sights, sounds and smells of a trip to a garden centre. So, if you ever see the team there, please do stop and say hello.

#### Pets at Home

We had a very successful August in Pets at Home, in Alton, where we are their Charity of the Year. We visited four times during the month, and had a lovely time chatting to customers about Dogs for Autism, many of whom had seen us on South Today! We would like to thank all the staff for their continued support.

## Campaigns

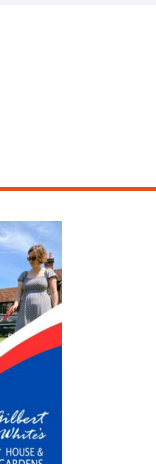


If you have what it takes to become one of our heroes and raise **£1,000** or more for us (either as an individual or in a group) please get in touch with Laura at [laura.mccreadie@dogsforautism.org.uk](mailto:laura.mccreadie@dogsforautism.org.uk)

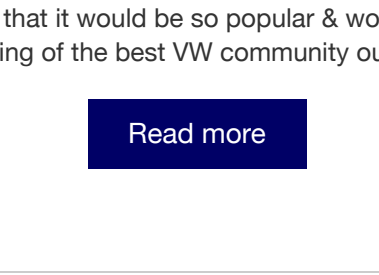
We will help you with ideas, offer social media support, provide a fund-raising pack including fliers, sponsorship forms and logos to use etc.

Just think – that 2023 medal could be yours... !

[Start your fundraiser now](#)



## Upcoming Events

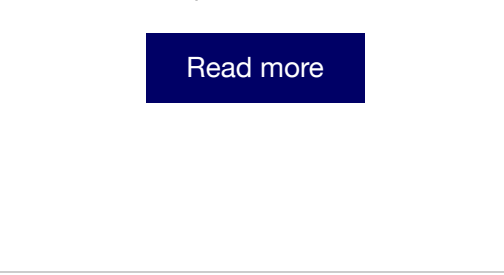


### Run the Ring 7

24th September 2023

**Run the Ring** is a parade of VW cars, VW vans & VW campers, to raise funds for charity. For those that have not Run the Ring before, it started as a joke on Facebook after John Emberton, the mastermind behind this bonkers but awesome idea asked "who wants to run my ring". Little did he know that it would be so popular & would be the beginning of the best VW community out there!

[Read more](#)

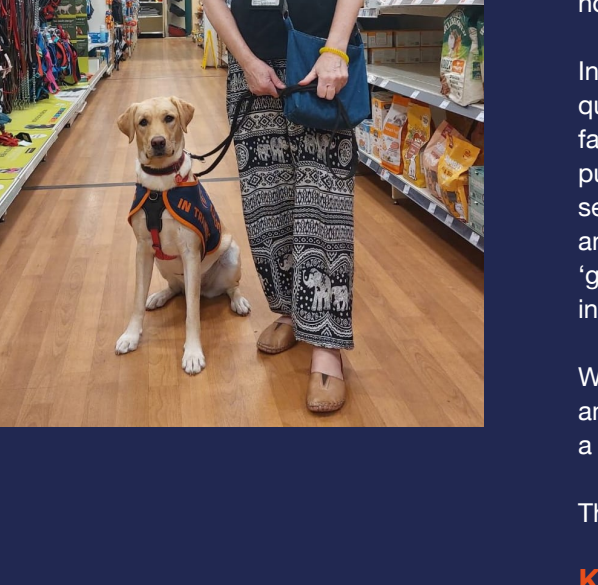


### Gilbert White's House Dog Show

24th September 2023

Visit Gilbert White's House and Gardens for a day of canine fun! With fun novelty classes for your canine companions (and for their owners!) to take part in, as well as South Downs National Park joining us for obstacle courses for their 'Take the Lead' campaign, it's a day that promises to be full of canine capers and fun for all the family.

[Read more](#)



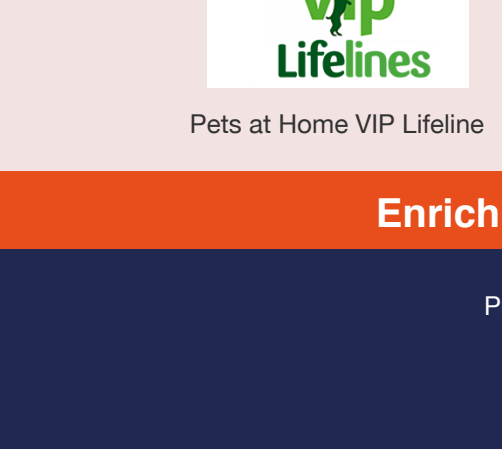
### Blackmoor Estate Apple Tasting Day

8th October 2023

Blackmoor Estate's famous Apple Tasting Day has been running for over 50 years and returns on **Sunday 8th October 2023**. This hugely popular free local event is in aid of local charities, and is a rare opportunity for fruit enthusiasts to taste a wide variety of the old and new apple and pear varieties grown at Blackmoor.

[Read more](#)

## In loving memory...



**In this newsletter we would like to pay tribute to one of our amazing Puppy Parents, who has sadly lost her battle with cancer.**

Kim was an experienced Puppy Parent, having supported other charities with this role in the past, and we were delighted when she volunteered to look after Polly, one of our Labrador trainees, during her initial training. Kim's calm, gentle and experienced manner brought out the best in Polly, who is now ready to enter her stage 2 training.

In Kim's own words, "Polly has been a delight to train, eager to please and quick to learn. She has brought much pleasure to complete strangers as their faces break into huge smiles when they see her working in shops, cafes and pubs and on public transport as we go out and about on our training sessions. She is now a confident, happy pup that is a pleasure to take anywhere. She leaps for joy when her harness is brought out and is very 'grown up' when her jacket is put on. She loves the beach and sea, running in and out chasing and biting waves."

We are so grateful to Kim and her husband, Keith, for giving Polly such an amazing start to her life with Dogs for Autism, and for providing her with such a full experience of both work and play.

Thank you, Kim. Rest in peace.

**Kim Stevens**  
 1961 - 2023

## Don't forget...

You can help us everyday when you select us and use any of these household names



Pets at Home VIP Lifeline



Give as you Live

Enriching lives - Expanding horizons

Proudly sponsored by OSCAR Pet Foods:



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