



**Rose Gardens volunteer** – Thomas, 13, lives in Brookland Rise and is the Northway Gardens Organisation's youngest volunteer, and is ready to help out with jobs such as weeding, sweeping paths, pruning and watering. Just the kind of keen and enthusiastic youngster the Rose Gardens needs. The organisation thanks their sponsors Ellis & Co and Streathers Solicitors, and also the HGS Trust and Residents Association for their support.



**The youngest ever Mayor of Barnet**, Councillor Reuben Thompstone is opening... what? see page 3.



The Milky Way, seen from Earth, a sight less likely to be seen today than it was fifty years ago. Find out why on page 2.

## Armistice Collection at the Virtual Museum

With the centenary of the end of the First World War rapidly approaching, the Virtual Museum is joining in the commemoration by introducing the Armistice Collection, which you can access at [www.hgsheritage.org.uk](http://www.hgsheritage.org.uk).

Ready to view in the museum in November, the collection is a window on Hampstead Garden Suburb 1914-18, with fascinating pictures to illustrate this turbulent

period in the Suburb's early history – almost unimaginable for today's residents.

Please get in touch with Marjorie Harris ([marjorieharris@btinternet.com](mailto:marjorieharris@btinternet.com)) if you or anyone you know has any interesting collections or artefacts of their own that they would like to share, or if you would be willing to join the inputting team.

MARJORIE HARRIS



(Above) Ward Garden Suburb Military Hospital Willfield Way

(Below) View from the Grounds Garden Suburb Military Hospital Willfield Way



## Pets Corner: Maisie, a gorgeous Pom

Following in the 'paw steps' of Beau, the Sheltie, who appeared in our last issue of Suburb News, we are delighted to introduce one of her girlfriends: Maisie.

When Maisie's owner, Terry, sent me photographs of her, she looked adorable so I just could not refuse this opportunity to feature her in Pet's Corner. So, one morning in August I went along to meet Maisie and initially, after greeting me with a few woofs, she soon settled down into her favourite chair on her brightly coloured green

cushion, ready for the interview to commence.

Firstly, I asked Terry to relate Maisie's life story for me. She recounted that, "Maisie came into my life nine years ago. I had two Pomeranians before her, but they were rescues. Maisie is the first pedigree dog I have got from a breeder. Her mother was called Truly Scrumptious and her father Phoenix. She already had the name Maisie when I met her, and I decided to keep the name."

"When I collected her from the breeder, she was so small

that she sat comfortably in the palm of my hand. I had a couple of interviews with the breeder who made it her business to find out about my lifestyle so she could suggest the most appropriate dog from the litter."

Terry selected Maisie and she was not wrong. Not only did she find Maisie cute and beautiful but she also had a lovely nature. Terry disclosed that, "I can take her anywhere because wherever we go, she is an instant hit with everyone" Indeed, Terry showed

me Maisie's registered Kennel Club Name: "Truly Amazing" – a name which she truly justifies!

So, I wanted to learn about Maisie's routine, which Terry disclosed is adapted to her own routine. "She sleeps on her bed in my room, gets up and has breakfast when I do. But before we go downstairs, there is a little ritual. Maisie turns on her back and expects her tummy to be rubbed!"

She is a very social little dog and likes to eat in company so she waits until I sit down before starting her meal. She is a little foodie and loves to eat when I do! So, I portion out her food so she can have a little at both lunchtime and dinner time. That way, she doesn't feel left out!

Initially a reluctant walker, Maisie now enjoys her daily walks in Bigwood and on Central Square. Fortunately, I work at home as a language tutor and Maisie has adapted to my lifestyle and sits in on my tutorials, often on my students' laps! She may very well be the only dog in the Suburb that is fluent in French and Spanish!

She rarely complains about the long hours spent in my study and the frequent late nights at exam time. She is the perfect little companion and fits in well wherever we go. She had no problem settling into life with Beau and his family who look after her when I am away. She established herself very quickly, laying claim to his bed, leaving him to her much smaller bed!"

I asked Terry if there was anything special about Maisie, "Well

Maisie is somewhat of a celebrity and happily poses for everyone who wants to take her picture – this happens every time we go out, especially if she is in her basket on the front of my bicycle! I trained her to sit in the basket from day one and she loves it."

And what about Maisie's particular quirks and habits? Terry informed me that Pomeranians are very fussy about where they do their business and it can sometimes take a while before the exact spot has been identified. Maisie is particularly comical when looking for her spot as she performs up to twenty pirouettes before finally squatting!

Terry added that, "Despite Maisie's size – compensated by her big personality – it doesn't bother her in most things, even when approached by a German shepherd ten times her size, but she doesn't like it when someone steps over her when she is asleep or resting." Not exactly surprising!

Maisie's upbringing has been in the Suburb virtually from birth, so Terry mentioned that, "Maisie is used to all the different places we can go walking. We usually go to Bigwood or the Square, but she loves travelling by bike to Golders Hill Park, particularly to the café, the Heath and the Heath Extension, where she can discover new pastures. She also enjoys going out for lunch to the Bull & Bush and the Wells Tavern, where, of course, everyone makes a fuss of her."

Reflecting on this and previous interviews in Pets Corner, I find it particularly heart-warming hearing the individual stories, learning about the experiences of being a pet owner and the importance that these animals bring not only to their owners but also to the wider community.

Thank you to Terry and, of course, dear Maisie.

DAPHNE BERKOVI



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*Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the publishers the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association.*

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The RA website is [www.hgs.org.uk](http://www.hgs.org.uk)