

'FRIENDS OF DOUGLAS... LEND ME YOUR EARS'



Above:
Winner Simon Box with Anna Wood on the right and Karen on the left, Co-founders of Dignified Departures

Saturday 19th September Marked Dignified Departures 3rd Anniversary.

Dignified Departures is a not for profit company and provides a directory and information website dedicated to raising awareness and providing information on end of life veterinary care and in-home peaceful pet euthanasia.

Karen Lindsey, along with fellow co-founder Anna Wood from Vets2You, chose to celebrate the occasion by hosting a 'Friends of Douglas' Awareness & Fund Raising Event. It was held at the fabulously located, animal friendly, Captains Club Hotel in Christchurch with 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People' being the charity selected to also benefit from the occasion.

Karen explains... 'A chance meeting with a lady called Jacqui, who was a recipient of a Hearing Dog, set us upon our journey. It hadn't been long since I had lost my beloved Douglas and at a time when Ben Fogle so publicly and bravely shared his grief of losing his dear dog Inca - Jacqui

shared that Ben was a supporter and auspiciously, his father, Bruce Fogle, a revered vet, was the co-founder of the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (www.hearingdogs.org.uk). It was then that I shared with Anna that should we organise an event, this particular charity (which also celebrates the human-animal bond) should be the first to benefit.'

90 guests attended the black tie event where both tears and smiles were in abundance. Douglas's story and the subject of end of life care was sensitively shared by Karen and Anna whilst Nicholas Orpin, Community Fundraising Manager South East, imparted how a Hearing Dog can help transform the life of a deaf person.

Guests played 'heads and waggy tails', purchased tickets for the raffle and bid for prizes in the silent and open auction – generosity prevailed...

enabling both causes to benefit and help in their pursuit of transforming lives for the better. The financial target of £3,100.00 was easily reached which assured that Dignified Departures could sponsor the sourcing/breeding of a Hearing Dog puppy and provide a lot of additional cuddly toys along the way!

Anna Wood explains 'It was a total shock to us that we managed to smash our target. We were blown away by people's big heartedness – we simply couldn't have asked for a better outcome. Being able to donate a final total of £4,055.00 to Hearing Dogs far exceeding our expectations and with guests also wishing to help Dignified Departures in our pursuit of raising awareness of our compassionate end of life veterinary care, it was fantastic outcome.'

Dignified Departures is set to utilise their share of the excess funds raised on the night to improve and maintain their website and enhance their promotional platform. Karen and Anna believe that this will help them to spread the word, thereby attracting additional vets to feature on their directory along with drumming up support from pet owners who, like them, wish to inspire change where change is needed.

Their objective being by the time the Hearing Dog puppy reaches his or her twilight years, all pet owners in the UK will have ready access to the level of in-home, end of life compassionate care that Karen's dog, Douglas, was able to receive.

For further information on Dignified Departures and how to become a 'Friend of Douglas' by pledging your 'penned' support, please visit www.Dignified-Departures.co.uk