SECOND CHANCES
German Shepherd Rescue

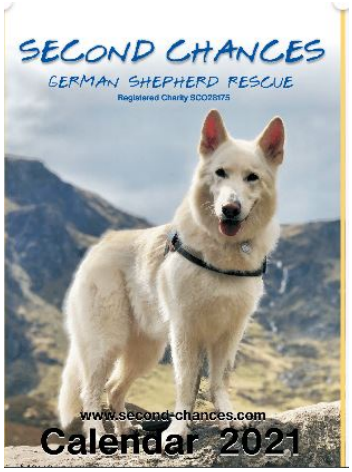
Registered Scottish Charity No – SCO28175

***** *Autumn 2021 Newsletter* *****

Another few months fly past and, all of a sudden, its Autumn. The days may be cooling off, but the work in the rescue isn't! We've had a busy year! We've still managed to find great new homes for dogs, whilst ensuring everyone is doing things safely.

Please remember to keep taking photos of your dogs so they may feature in our calendars; its lovely to see the pictures, reminding us all of the importance of what we do - giving a dog in need a second chance.

Calendar 2022



The 2022 calendar isn't ready yet, we will send a notification out as soon as its ready. Please watch out for it coming.

And as ever – please, please keep taking photos during the year for 2023 calendar, and if you would like to sponsor a month in the calendar, please get in touch, it really helps us to keep the selling price down.

AGM

The AGM for SCGSR was held remotely again this year due to covid restrictions, but it was so nice to "see" some new faces join our meeting, albeit via a video link, as well as some of our more "regular" faces – thanks to everyone for joining us and showing your support.

Membership renewal – Please renew ☺

Members receive these great Newsletters 3 times a year☺

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership. If you haven't yet, and would still like to, please complete the form attached and return it to me (by email or post). It is much appreciated.

If you have not already sent us a form for data protection consent, please complete this part of the form as well.

Membership remains **only £15** per year (that's only just over £1 a month) and all monies go to help care for these wonderful dogs. Our main costs are vet bills and kennel fees.

You can pay by paypal, bank transfer, cheque or cash. Or why not set up a standing order with your bank (please remember to add "membership" as the reference on any payments).

Zuri – here is a story from one of our recent adoptions

We had to say goodbye to our much loved German Shepherd Ayla, aged 13, at the beginning of the year. Life without a Shepherd is miserable, we needed rescuing, so we approached SCGSR in the hope we would be considered suitable 'pawrents' for one of their dogs.

Volunteers Christine and Steve came to do the home check and grilled us for a couple of hours! A little while later Steve phoned……

Steve	We've got a dog you might like.
Me	OOOOOH!
Steve	It's white
Me	Oh WOW!
Steve	Medium coated
Me	Okay
Steve	She's a bitch
Me	Amazing
Steve	She's spayed
Me	Fab
Steve	Fully vaccinated
Me	Great
Steve	She's got EPI
Me	NO, SORRY, NO WAY!!!!

It wasn't the medical condition I was concerned about, having had a Shepherd previously with EPI, it was the prohibitive medication costs. 30 years ago the monthly cost for pancreatic enzyme pills was over £100 per month and about the same for special diet and I dreaded to think what it would be now.

So what is EPI? Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency - it's what it says on the tin! The pancreas doesn't produce the enzyme needed to digest the food. The dog is usually painfully thin, permanently hungry, with foul smelling, fatty, greasy, uncontrollable yellow cow pat poops (nice!) and a dull, wiry and staring coat. All easily rectified with the right medication fortunately.

But fortunately the cost has reduced greatly over time and can be bought online without a prescription. The range of food available now is much more extensive than it was…….

So……on the 6th August volunteers Aileen and John transported Zuri to meet with Steve and Christine and we were delivered of a beautiful girlie!! (We called her Zuri because it means 'beautiful white one').



She is well controlled on the medication. Dogs with EPI are often hungry and it is probably wise to keep Temptation out of the way. I learnt the hard way. I left 4 chicken breasts defrosting in a place which I thought was well out of her reach - they weren't. I came home to a plate on the floor, not a chicken breast in sight and a very smug Zuri licking her lips. Squits for the next 24 hours and no chicken curry for us that night! Putting the EPI aside, she is a very healthy dog, perfect weight, a soft fluffy coat and lots of energy. And normal poops!!

Zuri has a no grain food with a little chicken and vegetable broth to give it a bit of taste. And of course, plenty of low fat treats for being such a good girl!

Thank you SCGSR and to the volunteers for all the time and effort put into bringing her to us. She has a happy forever home.

Raffle to win a Painting of your dog

One of our supporters has offered a raffle prize of a painting of the winners dog to help raise funds for the Second Chances dogs. These are samples of her work below.

Great prize

Painting on canvas (size 12” by 6” (unframed))





The painting (which will be of one dog) will be based on your photos, so you will need some good quality photos of your dog.

The draw will take place on 1st December 2021. The winning names will be selected at random.

Raffle tickets are **£2.50 each, or get 5 tickets for £10.**

Send or email the below information to: admin@second-chances.com (or by post see address below)

Name		email		Number of tickets	
Address					

Method of Payment:- Cash/Cheque/Bank Transfer Delete as appropriate
Mark all payments clearly as “raffle painting”. Your name will not be entered into the draw until payment has been received. Bank transfer to Virgin Money (Clydesdale Bank), Musselburgh Branch, 82-70-21, Account 50076372 Or post Cheques to: Helen Addis, 52 Queen Margaret Fauld, Dunfermline, KY12 0RL Cheques must be payable to “Second Chances German Shepherd Rescue” (in full) Please note paypal cannot be used for payments for raffles any longer; this is due to UK gambling laws and applies to all online raffles.

Pack Walk

We were able to have a pack walk – the dogs had a blast!





There is another packwalk, same venue (Tentsmuir), Sunday, 31 Oct 21 at 10am. Please remember that you need £2 to enter the carpark and it has to be cash.

Pets at Home summer fund-raiser



The Pets at Home Summer Event - Pedal for Paws - was fantastic and donated nearly £2000 to Second Chances!

Thanks very much to the Carlisle team for their support. Funds we receive from this programme will support our work by assisting with Kennel and Vets bills which form the largest expenditures we incur.

Don't forget, you can choose Second Chances (Carlisle) as your Pets at Home Charity, which means every time you shop, we get a donation - at no cost to you. This means we can buy food for dogs in our care – at no cost to us or you. It's a win win situation.

Pauls abseil

For those of you who know me well, you will be aware of my love of all animals, dogs being my favourite and German Shepherds are my breed of choice. That is why I am proud to be a volunteer for Second Chances.

It was in July when I began to consider, what madcap fundraising challenge that I could set myself this year, 2021. Up until then it had been a pretty tough year for all of us and we had not really come up for air, trying to rehome dogs and keep everyone safe from Covid.

Then out of the blue an “opportunity” in the form of an email from my employers. They would fund match up to £500 if anyone was daft enough to dangle from a rope (135 feet) from the top of Murrayfield Rugby Stadium.



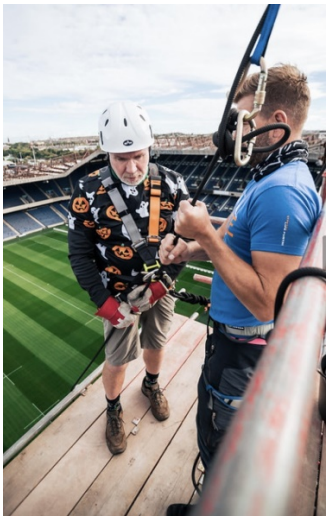
What could go wrong..... Well nothing as I am here to type this note.

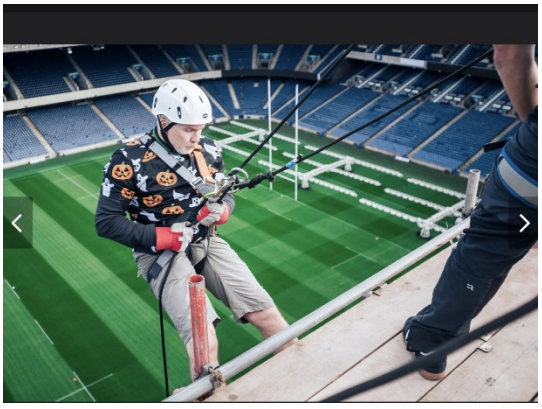
The emails went out asking for support and as always, many people stepped up to donate to our wonderful charity.

You still have time if you wish to contribute, by clicking on the link below.

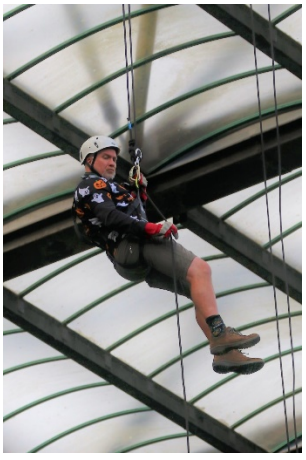
https://www.sponsorme.co.uk/paulburke-(1)/oldburkies-abseil.aspx

The 6th October arrived before I knew it. A sunny day, the stadium looked magnificent, I looked as I always do, an old grey fat guy in a daft t-shirt, and the top of the stand looked high and the platform looked very small.





It was over too quickly, but I loved every minute of the experience and would encourage everyone to abseil at least once.



Including the fund matching, I have raised just short of £2k for the charity and I thank everyone for their support as every penny goes to help the dogs that come into our care.

The photos were taken by my lovely wife and a big thank you to Maxine who supports me in the work with Second Chances.

It was a good day to abseil – That could almost be the title for the next Bond movie..

I also got a photo with my hero – Oor Wullie



Thanks for reading my note.

Meet Sheba

Sheba was “rescued” by a kind lady who took her into her own home, out of a situation that was not good, with the potential for getting much worse. The lady knew that she was not able to keep Sheba long term, but nevertheless, she knew she had to remove Sheba from the situation she was in, and then she would figure out how to help her find a forever new home.
The lady tried asking for help from two other rescues, both of whom turned Sheba down. Thankfully, a friend of a friend, told her to contact us.
Sheba has a deformed front paw – other than that, she is a healthy, normal – quite boisterous, young dog! We are very grateful to the support and advice given to Sheba and us by Ayrton Vets in Whitburn – Thanks so much to Tony and the team. We are also very grateful to the family who wanted to rehome Sheba, and we are delighted that she is now in a great new home.



Online shopping

We have received over £800 from Amazon Smile – it doesn’t sound much, but it adds up over the years – and doesn’t cost you or us anything. So please register Second Chances German Shepherd Rescue as your charity. Amazon Smile is the same as Amazon – but donates a percentage to charities www.smile.amazon.co.uk
We also receive money from Easyfundraising.org.uk – another online free and easy way to raise funds for Second Chances while shopping, at no extra cost to you – you just need to register and use it www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Dog leads – Watch what you are doing with that dog lead!

I came across an article from the British Society for the Surgery of the Hand (who knew there was such a society!) who said that dog owners are using their dog leads and collars incorrectly and leading (sorry!) to serious hand injuries.

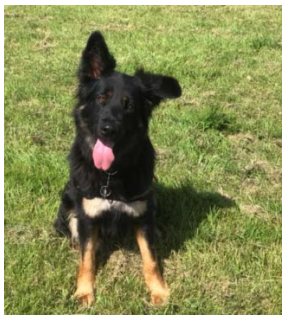
In one hospital alone they treated 30 serious hand injuries caused by dog leads or collars in a year.

Maybe having a big dog like a GSD means that we don't generally wrap the lead around our wrists, hands or fingers, because we know if things go wrong, we are going to come off worse!

A personal note from the Ed about – Cara

As many of you will know, I lost my handsome Bailey. He was such a presence, and was missed loads. Still, I had an empty dog bed, and the house was just too quiet, so I brought home Cara. Cara had had 3 previous homes, that we knew about, and she was only 2 years old. She was reactive to other dogs and had attacked a dog, she also had a high prey drive. Ho hum!! Cara also has hip dysplasia so I need to be careful with her exercise, and I had to try and think of other ways to give her stimulation, rather than hiking her around the countryside trying to tire her out! More on her hip dysplasia to come in another newsletter. But for now, I have to say a few "thank you's" as I've been overwhelmed with the willingness to help and the kindness that we have been shown by some local doggie people.

Tweed dogs – not only have they given me lots of advice, they have helped me with walking Cara with other dogs, and, the bit Cara likes best - they have off leash dog fields, where she can be off lead and just play and sniff!, with no worries of other dogs, or anything else she wants to chase! She has such a blast.





Man-trailing – Ive really loved learning this with Cara. Aside from a few distractions, like rabbits!, she loves it. The instructor is also really good about being aware of her reactivity.

Greenside vets – we seem to have been in and out of the vets quite a lot. Thankfully, Cara has been a star. Things are not made easy with Covid, and with the initial consultations mostly being done in the car park – Cara needed her neutering wound checked (which had opened up and was infected), and she sat in the boot of my car with a male vet in the boot beside her, with a torch, trying to find(!) and examine the wound, and she didn't make a sound. When she does go into the vets for a consultation – they all love her! (what a difference from Bailey who, er, did not like the vets, shall we say!)



So, yes, she is challenging, but we are having fun together 😊…. more stories to come!

Dogs with allergies

We are not medically qualified and this is not veterinary advice, but we did just want to bring to our readers attention about the wide variety of allergies that our dogs may have – one of which, although it seems unexpected, is allergy to chicken. It's the food that is at the top of most "go to" lists, especially if your dog is ill, but it's also in most dog foods, even sometimes in ones that are called "beef", or "salmon" - if you look at the ingredients list, often you will see chicken is actually the ingredient that is present in the most highest quantity. But it is actually not that uncommon to find dogs that are allergic to chicken. One of our rehomed dogs suffered many stomach problems, until chicken was identified as the root cause – since chicken has been identified and subsequently eliminated, the dog has been very healthy. Another one of our dogs suffered severe itchy, red skin on her belly and feet mainly, and it seems this has been due to an allergy to chicken.

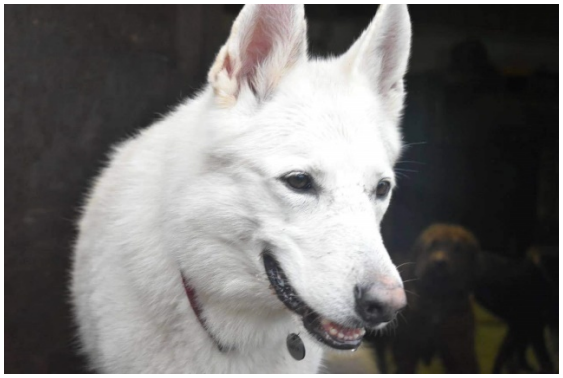
Obviously there are many reasons for allergies, and they could be environmental or food, but you shouldn't forget about something like chicken, and you should remember to check ingredients lists carefully as it turns up in many places, even when not actually mentioned in the name of the food.

Miya

Miya was dog-reactive when she came into the care of Second Chances – thankfully Karen and her faithful dog Milo were willing to put in the work with Miya, and it has been so worthwhile; Miya is a transformed dog. We thought it would be good to share her story, as we know reactivity is a common issue with GSDs. Here is her story. Thanks Karen and Milo for your patience, perseverance and hard work.

When Dawn suggested writing a short piece about Miya I wasn't sure where to start, or how to compress the larger than life character that is Miya into a few paragraphs. So we decided to concentrate on her dog reactivity but she is so much more than that.

As a GSD x husky you might expect a mix of traits but most people who know Miya would say her temperament is pretty much all husky, apart from her dog reactivity. She is super clever, wonderful with people, athletic, independent, stubborn, prey driven, inclined to be bossy and full of mischief. All in all a bit of a shock for someone who had never had a husky before!



It was more than 3 years ago now when Miya (age 5 years old at the time) came into local kennels near me, under the care of Second Chances. We had a fair bit of history on her and knew she had been dog reactive all her life, but she had lived happily with other dogs. Presumably her reactivity was the result of not being beyond the garden of her first home until 14 months of age, and missing out on all the critical socialising that should have happened in those earlier months.

My lovely calm non-Second Chances rescue dog Milo and I started to take Miya out for walks from the kennels at the weekends. Thankfully from that very first walk onwards there has never been any friction between them. I don't know why exactly, except that they are 2 completely different dogs who seem to complement each other well. In time, Miya started to stay over with us at the weekends, to give her a break from kennels. Then weekends became weekends and holidays, and eventually she came to live with us permanently. The intention in the beginning was to try and help her become less reactive and more rehomable, not to adopt her. However, Miya had other ideas and there came a time I simply could not bear to part with her.



From the start, my view was that if Miya can make one dog friend then there's no reason she can't make more. With that in mind we have worked hard over the last 3 years on her dog reactivity but there have been lots of ups and downs along the way. To those of you with a dog reactive dog, I wish I could say we discovered some magical quick fix cure, but sadly not. The only things that have worked for us are time, persistence and keeping hope - difficult to do when you have a snarling, lunging, 30kg ball of frantic energy at the end of the lead! I am far from an expert in dog reactivity but Miya has taught me some things which may be helpful to others going through the same process. Her top 3 tips are:

Don't underestimate the need for exercise

Miya is an athletic energetic dog and exercise isn't optional. But her reactivity/anxiety seemed to set her nervous system higher than that of an average dog's. The only way to truly calm her was hard exercise. We were lucky and found a few safe places in those early days where she could run or swim off lead. You may not have these options close by but perhaps you could run or cycle with your dog? Or rent a dog field? Or make use of a large garden that family or friends have? Or a treadmill? During lockdown we used a treadmill and Miya still loves it.



Use the tools you need

With a big reactive dog having physical control was always important for those times we couldn't get out of the way of other dogs. Miya detested head collars but a rope slip lead doubling up as a head collar was (almost!) acceptable to her and stopped me being pulled over. It also saved more than a few dogs from being bitten. We used treats and toys liberally during walks and anyone who says they are bribes has never had a truly reactive dog! Space was our best friend and we used it often in the earlier days.

Use what you need to feel safe and to help your dog.

Accept all the help you need

We were fortunate enough to live close to a dog class for "growly dogs" and taking Miya there was really valuable. For the first time I was able to see her fairly close to other strange dogs but in a

safe controlled environment. It was a great opportunity to learn her early warning signs and be able to move away before trouble starts, all amongst others who understood.

People are often happy to help if you let them know the problem. We walked with friends and their dogs. We walked with strangers who had laid back dogs, from a safe distance. Fellow dog walkers who knew us would stand a bit away and speak with me, which gave Miya the chance to be around dogs outside without being too close.

And of course Second Chances volunteers are always on hand to give advice and support.

Miya is now safe off lead, around strange dogs and meets every one well. I was never more proud of her than a month ago when she started attending dog day care and fitted in immediately. It has taken 3 years to get to this point but oh it has been worth it. To see this previously highly reactive dog safely in the middle of the gang, thoroughly enjoying herself, and finally able to satisfy even her pack instinct, is more than I could ever have hoped for.





So if you are in a similar position please hang in there, be kind to yourself and your dog, and keep working - just sometimes the seemingly impossible does indeed happen.

They say it takes a village to raise a child but it sometimes seems more like a whole community is needed to help a dog reactive dog.

We could not have got to this point without the help of so many people; family, friends, fellow dog walkers and Second Chances. And a few others who deserve a special mention:

Carron and Jeremy at Happas Canine Centre who look after Miya like she is one of their own when she's with them. They were also so understanding and flexible early on with the weekend stays at my house.

Lorna and fellow attendees at ACES Dog Training. The first class we attended together, and they were specifically for dogs who needed socialisation work. So valuable to Miya and I, and a great step towards attending "normal" classes.

Angus Dog Activity Club and fellow attendees at the Community Centre classes. Everyone was so supportive and understanding.

Mitch, Amanda and Alix at Red Collar Retreat Dog Day Care. For giving Miya the opportunity to be a pack animal and taking such good care of her.

Thank you all from Miya and Karen x

And last but by no means least, you might remember reading about Daisy in our last Newsletter. Daisy ended up in our care, after being abandoned, and thankfully Lesley took her in and cared for Daisy. However, very sadly, we recently lost Daisy. Thanks, as ever, Lesley and Jim, for giving this beautiful girl a comfortable home and lots of love. Here is a heart-breaking story from Lesley.

Daisy

On Christmas Eve last year, Paul phoned me saying 'I hear you're interested in Daisy'. The day before, I had seen a post on Facebook... this absolutely adorable little darling had been found wandering on a back road. She was old, totally lost, very ill and abandoned. I had made some enquiries through my network of rescue friends, and I knew I had to have her. So ..... in answer to Paul's question... Yes I was interested. Who couldn't be ❤️

We had lost our darling Pascha and also Jim's old fella, Asher, months before and had said .. 'no more', but after I described her situation, my wonderful other half said 'Does she need us? Will anyone else want her?' My answer was Yes and No. His reply was 'Well then she needs us'.

Five days later, she was ours ❤️



Cold, elderly and lost – that was all anyone knew about her when she was found



Daisy had a very obvious mammary tumour which hung down from her tummy and she was skin and bone. Our immediate need was to get some weight on her, once that happened, we could have her assessed to see if the tumour could be removed. Over the next few weeks, she put on over 3 kilos and we were all so happy for her.
When we got her, she could barely support herself never mind walk, but she very quickly got back on her wee furry paws and was soon chasing after our Barney. We bought her a new pink jacket, as Barneys was too big for her, and she played and rolled in the snow. She came alive again ❤️

We needed to get her scanned to see if there were any further tumours, but she then came into season. At her age, with all she had wrong, that was the last thing she needed. We then had to wait 3 months after her season to have her scanned. It was an agonising wait, delaying any possible treatment that may have been able to help her. She should have been spayed years ago.
When the day finally came that the scan could go ahead, we were so hopeful for the results.....



Sadly we discovered that she had cancer all through her lungs as well as the obvious tumours and there was nothing more that could be done for her. I hope no one ever has to receive such news. She may only have been ours for a few months, but that news completely devastated us 💔

We had always feared the worst but had always hoped for the best. Its only what she deserved.

From that day forward, Daisy got whatever she needed. She had done from the start, but even more so then.

We took her camping, she made GSD snow angels in the park, she made friends with all our neighbours, especially the older ladies who loved her. She swam in Glencoe, paddled in Highland burns..... but most of all, she was just the most absolute, sweetest little darling you could ever wish for. She loved to 'Wuff' at every dog or noise she heard and had the most beautiful eyes you could imagine and the fluffiest paws. She would 'Wuff' every time we let her out in the garden at night but we never told her off for it, because we knew that sooner than we could ever imagine, we would miss that 'wuffing'.



Daisy left us at 2.30 on Saturday morning. We spent the night on the floor with her till she fell asleep with us by her side. 💔

I have been a volunteer with SCGSR rescue for over 16 years and have fostered and adopted almost 20 Shepherds as well as having my own, but I can honestly say that none have had such an impact on me as much as our most beautiful, darling Daisy ❤️
To her previous 'owners' who left her to get in such a horrendous condition, without allowing her the veterinary treatment that could have changed her life..... I hope you **!!$$!*! ... but be assured, she will not see you there. She is now in a beautiful place... somewhere as beautiful as her ❤️



To my partner Jim... without you she would never have known true love. You have gone above and beyond to give our darling Daisy everything she could ever need. Throughout her whole illness you gave her your all. She loved you unconditionally. From the foods you bought and prepared for her every day, to the chaise longue you made out of quilts for her with the pillow for her fluffy head, upstairs and downstairs and the love you showed her every day.

The saying is so true... If love could have saved you Darling Girl.... You would never have died ❤️
R.I.P our Darling Baby Girl 🐾❤️🌈
You are now back home with us forever ❤️
My thanks as always to Paul x

Lesley has received many comments and "Virtual hugs" after losing Daisy, but she goes on to say:

Your comments have had us in tears but have also helped us get through this time, and while we appreciate all the kind words, we do not do what we do for the thanks, but simply because there are always dogs exactly like Daisy who need us. I understand that not everyone is able to adopt or foster a dog, especially ones with additional needs. Not everyone will take in a golden oldie because they want a dog for as long a life as possible..... but it's really not about you.... it's about them. It's about giving them what they need, when they need it, for as long as they do. Which is why, although we are heart broken at losing Daisy, I know that in time, we will do it again.

If Daisy's life and death has touched your heart at all.... but you're unable to take a dog on, then can I beg you to please set up a direct debit for Second Chances German Shepherd Rescue and donate even just £1 a month to help. Nobody would miss that each month. I do it, and if every one of the 238 people who reacted to her facebook post did this, just imagine how much money could be raised every month, every year, to help these absolutely fantastic dogs.

Virgin Money

The account number is ... 50076372

Sort code 82-70-21

Please do it .... In loving memory of Daisy ❤️🐾



A huge thanks for the stories sent in, and for your support. Please don't forget to renew your membership ☺

If anyone would like to send in a story, photo, etc. for future editions of the Newsletter, please write to us. If you no longer wish to receive newsletters, please let me know.

email: admin@second-chances.com or call us on 07503 744812 (Dawn)
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