



This newsletter is dedicated to Pressy, Precious, Mac and Roger Harris
~
Now over the Rainbow Bridge

NEW LIFE PARROT RESCUE & HELPLINE SERVICE

Charity Reg No: 1056409

Dear Friends and supporters,

It has been quite some time since we updated you on our activities. An old cliché, I know, but time really does fly-by! Things are a little quiet at the moment - perhaps I shouldn't speak too soon - and so I thought I would take this opportunity to let you all know what we have been doing.

So, from Spring onward, here are a few NLPR highlights



Friday, 29th April 2011, the night of the Royal Wedding, a beloved African Grey parrot escaped from his/her home in North London. On Sunday 1st May, we received a frantic call from a lady in North London saying that she had picked up a parrot from the curb outside her house the day before. The parrot was apparently now at liberty flying around her home and pooping everywhere. Respectfully, the lady had no idea of how to care for or manage a free-flying parrot, so, naturally, she was unable to cope with the situation.

However, she could identify the species of parrot, thus was able to tell us that he/she is an African grey and that she was providing the bird with parrot food and water. She had phoned the RSPCA and other animal organisations but no one was willing to help. Through Internet search, she came across our details. I noted the distress in her voice and knew we had to collect the bird. I immediately arranged with a Friend and supporter, Mick Thornton, to travel from Cambridgeshire to North London.



Mick and I entered the room to find a delightful parrot – with some bruising around his eye – perching on a gentleman's shoulder looking quite at home. The bruising must surely have been the result of knocking him/herself during flight expedition or a clumsy landing. The transition went smoothly. There was no room at the inn, so to speak, so I approached one of our potential adoptees and asked if the couple would be willing to temporarily house the Grey until we could locate his/her people. We received a warm positive response. This was a huge relief for us, but before the temporary placement, we took the Grey to a nearby vet

for a microchip scan, which registered a most unusual chip number.

Lorraine Roberts and I searched the net for chip companies that were possible matches. We discovered the origin of the chip had come from the Czech Republic and there was no registration of the chip on any UK company database for 'Lost and Found Animals', like 'Pet Finder'. We were stumped ... that is until my husband, John, suggested we locate veterinary practices within 1 to 2 mile radius from where the Grey had been found. Job done! I started phoning down the list and on my third call I got a lead! Apparently, a client had walked into

the veterinary practice that morning and register his missing African Grey parrot. Quality proof of 'parrotage' was provided until we were fully satisfied that we had a match and that it was a loving home waiting in the wings for the return of a beloved bird. By the way, this lucky parrot went by the name of Archie, to which end, was never registered on a microchip database due to a confusing situation - Archie's people thought the vet had automatically registered him once he had been microchipped! Nonetheless, it had taken us two days to achieve this result. The irony is that Archie had only flown 1.5 miles from his home before the lady in North London had picked him from the curb outside her home.

It was bitter-sweet for Shirley and Ian, our potential adoptees, for they had enjoyed their short time with Archie and so were sad to see him go but happy to know that he was soon to be reunited with his beloved people. I felt dreadful taking Archie away, knowing that, especially, Shirley had fallen deeply in love with this delightful bundle of grey and red feathers and admit to shedding some tears with her.

We reunited "Archie" with his people on 5th May 2011. It was a very happy reunion - Archie climbed up Elaine's arm and immediately began to feed her!



Archie in his home before his flight expedition

Archie's people told us that they intend to erect an outside play aviary for him so that he can enjoy the outside world in safety.

Please note that wing clipping is not the answer to keeping your bird safe, but screen doors / screen fittings around windows and the provision of an outside play-aviary with environmental enrichment during days of good weather is by far the best. Wing clipping will cause physical and psychological damage and is thus detrimental to the overall welfare of parrots and other birds.

We would like to thank Mike Thornton, Shirley and Ian, and Lorraine Roberts for their valuable help and assistance in concluding a happy ending.



In May 2011, we took possession of a bonded pair of wild-caught African Grey parrots, which we named Kamu and Malaika. The pair had been with an old lady who had kept them for many years in a small cage in her home, along with a pair of Amazons, one of which was in poor feather condition and was suffering an eye problem. They had no perches and food and water were sparse. Thankfully, a veterinary nurse went in every day to attend to the birds and several cats. She gradually re-homed the latter with the help of the Cat Protection Society and then informed all animal/cat



rescues not to pass on any cats or other animals to the old lady.

There were times when, after the nurse put perches in the cage for the birds, together with clean food and water, the old lady would take them out. She kept a concerned eye on the parrots and did her best for them for a period of two years whilst encouraging the old lady to relinquish them to a sanctuary. The birds were not easy to care for, as they were naturally nervous and afraid of close human contact. When the old lady finally conceded to relinquishing the parrots, the vet nurse contacted us and asked if we would take them. We were able

to accommodate the pair of African Greys due to already having two African Grey aviaries. We were able to direct the pair of Amazons to an excellent parrot rescue. During the arrangements, the vet nurse discovered that the old lady had somehow managed to obtain four cats and that one or more of them had attacked the under-par Amazon, damaging one of his/her wings – there were no flight feathers left on the wing. She immediately got the birds out and temporarily housed them with a friend until she could deliver the birds to their permanent destination.



On 21st May 2011, Kamu and Malaika arrived. It was not long before Kamu ventured out of the shelter into the flight but Malaika remained reticent. We later discovered that she could not fly very well. Naturally, muscle atrophy had developed through years of cage-confinement. She eventually walked out and clung to the aviary wire, working her way round to be with Kamu. However, Malaika suddenly surprised us one day when she flew from the hatch opening into the aviary. It was a wonderful moment. She is now a strong flier.

The aviary flight gave these pair a new lease of life. They would whistle, have a little chat

and in a profound tone, would mimic a cat.



It was not long until the happy pair became confident in their new surroundings. They had made themselves at home.

Unfortunately, having got their zygodactyl toes truly under the table, they began to dominate Mia's area – Mia is a red-bellied macaw who lost her companion in January 2011. The medium-sized macaws amicably shared the aviary flight with a few African Grey parrots, but they had their own shelter. Mia was not happy with Kamu and Malaika - she had just started to adjust from losing her companion.

The situation was a dilemma for us; we knew we could not house the pair in the

other Grey aviary and we were reluctant to up-root Kamu and Malaika, but we had to think of

Mia's wellbeing. Unfortunately, we had no choice but to relocate them. I approached one of our former trustees, Pat Marshall, and asked if she and her husband would take Kamu and



Malaika, knowing this beautiful pair would be provided for extremely well and that Pat and Brian might have available a spare aviary and cosy shelter. We were deeply relieved when we received a positive response.

We are pleased to say that Kamu and Malaika have settled in very well with Pat and Brian. It only took them about two weeks to regain their confidence. Malaika recently became poorly. She had a mild infection and vitamin A deficiency, which is the underlying cause of many infections. Ultimately, this was the result of the appalling diet she received from the old lady. Malaika has responded well to antibiotic treatment and a good dose of a full

All photos of Kamu and Malaika are by Pat and
spectrum vitamin and mineral supplement.

Sometimes, one is just a stepping-stone for helping a bird or animal get out of a terrible ordeal. The vet nurse and NLPR have played their part in getting these wonderful birds to their final destination. We are happy that Kamu and Malaika have an enjoyable 'new life'. Our deepest thanks and appreciation to the vet nurse and Pat and Brian.

Naturally, we have been very busy with many other things - charity administration and the care of NLPR's precious rescued flock, and some filming here at NLPR for the [Wetnose Animal Aid](#) 'Welfare Success Award' 2012. We are very proud to receive this prestigious award. The Celebrity Award Ceremony is at the Belgravia Hotel in London in March. We will bring you all the glitz after the event.

On a personal level, I have helped some local avian wildlife. The highlight for me was in the form of fledgling house martins, which have a story of their own, but here I will share a few delightful images with you. We successfully released three fledgling siblings into a flock of their own species and the initial, single house martin is still with me because we cannot release him/her back into the wild due to wing injury and feather problems. I aptly named him/her Fidget. He is extremely tame and has given me an insight to just how difficult and specialised these birds are to care for, given that they are strictly insectivores and migratory, so he/she has kept me on my toes and given me many worrying moments. Fidget's adorable character reminds me of our late, beloved hand-reared lovebirds - minus the feisty beak!

Fidget





Sibling chicks



Almost a fledgling



Morning before their release: 31st August 2011



Finally, It is with great sadness that we announce the recent passing of our friend and supporter, Roger Harris, who transcended the Rainbow Bridge on Sunday 9th October 2011 ~ now reunited with his four and two-legged friends.

From left to right: Alan, Roger and Hella



Roger was a gentleman, a vegan and an animal rights supporter and activist. He attended many peaceful demonstrations, ranging from general anti-fur protest, in particular against the fur trade at Harrods, to the en masse demonstrations against live exports and vivisection. Roger also supported some animal rescue/welfare organisations. NLPR is honoured to have been one such organisation to receive his generosity and kindness.

You can read the full tribute to [Roger](#) on our website by clicking his name.

Financial circumstances are especially hard for small animal rescue organisations. NLPR is also feeling the pinch. We will soon be asking for your assistance to help NLPR win a competition of either the bottom prize of £1,500 or the top prize of £5,000! It is easy, all you will need to do is to click a button and circulate it to family and friends and ask them to do the same, but you must be registered with Facebook. We will send you the full details in due course.

Thank you for your continual support, we appreciate and value all you do and have done to help us help parrots in need. Bless you!

Kindest best wishes,

Julie and all at NLPR

New Life Parrot Rescue & Helpline Service
Registered Charity Number: 1056409
Tel: +44 (0)1480 390040
E-mail: nlpr@nlpr.org.uk
Web site: www.nlpr.org.uk

"We have enslaved the rest of the animal creation, and have treated our distant cousins in fur and feathers so badly that beyond doubt, if they were able to formulate a religion, they would depict the Devil in human form." ~ William Ralph Inge